FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!!

FBIS will phase out publication of most of its paper reports, including ALL Daily Reports and most FBIS Reports, by 31 December 1996.

See inside for information on how to access FBIS products and services electronically.

FBIS-NES-96-129
Wednesday
3 July 1996

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Dear Customer:

Responding to our many customers' requests, NTIS is offering FBIS publications electronically. Due to resource limitations, hardcopy production of FBIS publications will be phased out during 1996. Hardcopy reports will be discontinued according to the following schedule:

1 April	*Arms Control and Proliferation Issues*
1 May	*Environment and World Health*
1 June	*Narcotics*
1 July	*Terrorism*

Hardcopy publication of the regional DAILY REPORTS will cease as follows:

1 August	*China, Latin America*
19 August	*Near East and South Asia, West Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, West Europe Economic Review*
2 September	*East Asia, East Europe, East Europe Economic Review*
16 September	*Central Eurasia, Central Eurasia Military Affairs, Central Eurasia Economic Review*

FBIS' goal is to cease publication of all hardcopy reports by 31 December 1996 except for S&T PERSPECTIVES, S&T CENTRAL EURASIA, S&T CHINA, S&T KOREA, S&T EUROPE, and S&T JAPAN. The S&T reports will continue to be published as hardcopy until the graphics they contain can be disseminated on-line.

FBIS products are offered electronically through the National Technical Information Service's (NTIS) "World News Connection" (WNC). This is a new on-line subscription service accessible through the World Wide Web. The Web address is http://wnc.fedworld.gov. Please see the next page for a subscription form or call NTIS Fax Direct at 703-487-4140 and enter product code 8645 to receive more information.

World News Connection™

A Foreign News Alert Service from the U.S. Government

World News Connection - WNC1.....**$ 21**
7 Day - Introductory Offer
Unlimited interactive searching
[no profiles]
Order number SUB-9856BDQ

World News Connection - WNC2.....**$ 50**
Monthly
Unlimited interactive searching
[no profiles]
Order number PB95-985700BDQ

World News Connection - WNC3.....**$ 75**
Monthly
Unlimited interactive searching
[1 profile]
Order number PB95-985800BDQ

World News Connection - WNC4.....**$100**
Monthly
Unlimited interactive searching
[up to 5 profiles]
Order number PB95-985900BDQ
(Prices are subject to change)

User Name *(Please Print or Type)*	**Internet E-mail Address** *(Required)*	**Order Number**	**Price**
1) _____	_____	_____	_____
2) _____	_____	_____	_____

(Continue on a blank sheet if more space is required)

Deposit Account Number (for NTIS account customers only): _____

Customer Master Number (if known): _____ Date: _____

Contact Name: _____ Organization: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Province/Territory: _____ Country: _____

Foreign Postal Code: _____

Internet E-mail Address (Organization contact person): _____

Telephone Number: ( ) _____ Fax Number: ( ) _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Credit Card Expiration Date: _____

Card Type (Visa, Master Card, or American Express): _____

Cardholder's Name (as printed on the credit card): _____

Cardholder's Signature (required to validate all orders): _____

(Please fax this form back to NTIS at **703-321-8547**. Fax service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
To verify receipt of your fax, call (703) 487-4679 between 7:00am - 5:00pm, Monday - Friday, Eastern Time.)

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-129 *3 July 1996*

CONTENTS

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 25 Jun 1

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: Al-Za'nun Says 'Arafat Officially Invited To Visit Damascus *[AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH 1 Jul]* 2
Palestinian Affairs: Abu-Rudaynah Says 'Arafat Invited To Visit Syria *[Jericho VOP]* 2
Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat, France's Chirac Hold 'Important' Telephone Conversation *[Jericho VOP]* 2
Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat To Visit Jordan 'Next Week' *[Jericho VOP]* 2
Palestinian Affairs: PNC Chairman Comments After Meeting Arab League Head *[MENA]* 2
Palestinian Affairs: Abu-Marzuq—Hamas Does Not Hit U.S. Targets *[London AL-HAYAH 2 Jul]* 3
Palestinian Affairs: Measures Adopted Against Dissident Fatah LC Members *[Jerusalem Radio]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Algeria: FLN Decides To Participate in Multilateral Meetings *[Algiers Radio]* 5
Algeria: Dialogue Rejected Despite Islamists' Change of Stance *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 3 Jul]* 5

Egypt

Egypt: Musa Receives Phone Call From Israel's Levi on Peace Talks *[MENA]* 5
Egypt: Musa Comments on Peace Process in BBC Interview *[MENA]* 6
Egypt: Journalist on Scud Missile Issue, U.S. Policy *[AKHBAR AL-YAWN 29 Jun]* 6

Sudan

Sudan: DUP Repudiates al-Hindi, Says No Contacts With Regime *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 2 Jul]* 9
Sudan: Nubah Mountains Wing of SPLM Declares Unilateral Cease-Fire *[SUNA]* 9

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Bahrain: Syria's al-Shar' Brings al-Asad Message to Amir *[WAKH]* 10
Bahrain: Foreign Minister Holds Talks With Syria's al-Shar' *[Damascus Radio]* 10
Bahrain: Syria's al-Shar' Says Efforts 'Crowned With Success' *[WAKH]* 10
Bahrain: Foreign Minister Lauds Syrian Mediation With Iran *[WAKH]* 10

Kuwait

Kuwait Reiterates Support for Gulf Action To Confront Terrorism *[SPA]* 11

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: ABC Team Reportedly Expelled After 'Threat' Story *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 3 Jul]* 11

Saudi Arabia: Dissident Al-Mas'ari Reacts to Condemnation by Rifkind *[London International]* 11

IRAQ

Iraq: Al-Anbari Hopes for Agreement With UN Within 'Few Days' *[INA]* 12
Iraq: Ekeus Missile Claim Said Part of U.S. Plan To Starve Iraqis *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 2 Jul]* 12
Iraq: UN Help Sought To Secure Release of POW's in Iran *[INA]* 13
Iraq: France Urged To Confront U.S. Efforts To 'Control' Europe *[INA]* 13
Iraq: Trade Minister Says Indonesia To Buy 'Huge Amounts' of Oil *[INA]* 13
Iraq: Saddam's Half-Brothers Reportedly Under House Arrest *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 3 Jul]* 13
Iraq: Opposition 'National Congress' Meets To Rectify 'Deviation' *[AL-HAYAH 1 Jul]* 14

ISRAEL

Israel: Netanyahu on Terrorism, Relations With 'Arafat *[Munich FOCUS 1 Jul]* 15
Israel: Netanyahu Vows Israel Will Not Accept Terrorists' 'Game' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 16
Israel: Disagreement With U.S. Said Delaying Lebanon Monitoring *[HA'ARETZ 3 Jul]* 17
Israel: Musa Tells Levi No Intention of 'Pressuring' Netanyahu *[Jerusalem TV]* 17
Israel: Netanyahu for 'Openness' With Autonomy, Against Separation *[THE JERUSALEM POST 3 Jul]* 17
Israel: Netanyahu 'Hopes' Sharon Will Join Government *[Jerusalem Radio]* 18
Israel: Likud Sources Say Netanyahu To Leave Sharon Out of Cabinet *[Jerusalem Radio]* 18
Israel: Netanyahu To Bring Altered Hebron Redeployment Plan to U.S. *[Jerusalem Radio]* 18
Israel: Netanyahu Says Budget Cuts Mainly in Defense, Welfare *[Jerusalem Radio]* 18
Israel: Netanyahu To Meet 'Senior' Economic Leaders in Washington *[GLOBES]* 19
Israel: Histadrut Vows To Fight Proposed Budget Cuts *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Israel: Further on Cabinet's Budget Cut Decision, Economic Goals *[THE JERUSALEM POST 3 Jul]* 19
Israel: Histadrut Head To Discuss Turkish Phantom Deal With Meridor *[GLOBES]* 20

JORDAN

Jordan: King Said To Accept 'Principle' of Visit to Damascus *[AFP]* 21
Jordan: Al-Kabariti Says 'Arafat To Arrive in Amman 6 Jul *[AL-DUSTUR 3 Jul]* 21
Jordan: Prime Minister, PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas Discuss Ties, Situation *[Amman Radio]* 21
Jordan: Israeli Envoy Says Israel Violating Peace Agreement With Jordan *[Amman TV]* 21
Jordan: Minister on Plans To Raise Bread Price, Increase Subsidy *[Amman TV]* 22

LEBANON

Lebanon: Iranian Envoy Denies Refusing Visas *[Beirut Radio]* 23
Lebanon: Dissident Fatah Group Statement Details Missile Attack *[Al-Quds Radio]* 23
Lebanon: Buwayz 'Not Optimistic' About Arab Economic Unity *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 2 Jul]* 23

SYRIA

Syria: New Turkish Government Urged To Promote 'Historic Ties' *[Damascus Radio]* 25
Syria: Paper Criticizes Israeli 'Campaign' Against Egypt *[SANA]* 25
Syria: Netanyahu Criticized for Placing 'Preconditions' on Peace *[SYRIA TIMES 1 Jul]* 26
Syria: Papers on 'Success' of Mediation Between Bahrain, Iran *[Damascus Radio]* 26

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Kabul Urges UN To Force Pakistan To Close Taleban Centers *[Kabul Radio]* ... 28

Afghanistan: Paper Sees 'Cool Relations' Between Taleban, Pakistan *[Kabul Radio]* 28
Afghanistan: Pakistan Opposition Party Pledges Support for Government *[Message of Freedom]* 28
Afghanistan: Taleban Rocket Hits Bus, 8 Killed *[Kabul Radio]* 28
Afghanistan: Hekmatyar Holds Talks Over Dinner With Mas'ud *[Kabul Radio]* 29
Afghanistan: Leaders Express Support for Continued Inter-Party Dialogue *[Kabul Radio]* 29
Afghanistan: Official—U.S. After Tarnishing Islamic Movements *[IRNA]* 29
Afghanistan: Hekmatyar Urges Opening of Highways *[Tehran International]* 30

India

India: Gujral Hopeful of Better Bilateral Ties to U.S. *[INDIAN EXPRESS 2 Jul]* 30
India: Minister on Efforts To Normalize Relations With Pakistan *[Delhi TV]* 30
India: Gujral—J&K Elections, Talks With Pakistan Not Related *[THE ASIAN AGE 2 Jul]* 31
India: Minister Optimistic on Kashmir Autonomy *[Delhi Radio]* 32
India: Home Minister Tells Kashmir Militants To Shun Violence *[Delhi Radio]* 32
India: IAF Finds Su-30 Fighters Fit 'Futuristic Requirements' *[THE TIMES OF INDIA 1 Jul]* 32
India: 'Widespread' Protest Against Petroleum Products Price Hike *[Delhi Radio]* 33
India: BJP, Congress Note Charges Against Federal Ministers *[Delhi Radio]* 33
India: Congress Urges Gowda To 'Consider' Charges Against Minister *[Delhi Radio]* 33
India: Minister of State for Home Rejects BJP Allegation *[Delhi Radio]* 33
India: Home Minister Refutes Press Reports on Ayodhya, UP Election *[Delhi Radio]* 34
India: Congress Leader Karunakaran Refutes Reported Remarks on Rao *[Delhi Radio]* 34

Iran

Iran: Clandestine Radio Reports on Bahraini Executions *[Voice of Iranian Kordestan]* 34
Iran: Velayati, Syrian Counterpart Review Bahrain Mediation Talks *[Tehran TV]* 34
Iran: President Pledges 'Friendly' Gulf Ties in al-Shar' Talks *[AFP]* 35
Iran: 4-Day Naval Exercises Begin in Persian Gulf *[IRNA]* 35
Iran: Missile Maneuver Ends in Persian Gulf *[IRNA]* 35
Iran: 50,000 Troops Exercise Near Mashhad *[Tehran TV]* 35
Iran: Pro-Iranian Parties Reportedly Meet in Tehran *[SHIHAN 29 Jun-5 Jul]* 36
Iran: Velayati on Economic Cooperation With Ukraine, Turkmenistan *[Tehran Radio]* 36
Iran: Editorial on Israel's Part in Turkish Border Bombing *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 29 Jun]* 36
Iran: Christopher Mideast Visit Seen as Election Tactic *[IRAN NEWS 25 Jun]* 37
Iran: Daily Says U.S. Needs To Overhaul Trade Policy *[IRNA]* 37
Iran: Daily on U.S. 'Paper Tiger,' Iran's 'Self-Sufficiency' *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 22 Jun]* . 38
Iran: Daily Says U.S. Forces Should Leave Region 'Immediately' *[IRAN NEWS 27 Jun]* 39
Iran: Clinton's 'Failure' on Iran Will Affect U.S. Elections *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 24 Jun]* 39
Iran: British Diplomat Railed Over Comments on Gulf Affairs *[KEYHAN 12 Jun]* 40
Iran: Oil Committee Official Sees U.S.-EU Split on Sanctions *[IRNA]* 41
Iran: Majles Deputy Says U.S. 'Threats' Against Iran 'Doomed to Failure' *[TEHRAN TIMES 29 Jun]* 41
Iran: Daily Says G-7 Summit Reveals Resistance to U.S. 'Moves' *[IRNA]* 41
Iran: Commentary Sees Egypt Playing France Against U.S. *[Tehran Radio]* 42
Iran: Velayati Addresses Seminar on Afghanistan *[IRNA]* 42
Iran: China Signs Memorandum on Manufacture of Pharmaceuticals *[IRNA]* 43
Iran: Irish EU Presidency Welcomed *[IRNA]* 43
Iran: President Rafsanjani Stresses Need for Peace in Afghanistan *[Tehran TV]* 44
Iran: Dailies Say Solving Afghan Crisis Would Help Regional Security *[IRNA]* 44
Iran: French Mass Media Accused of Anti-Iranian Stance *[KHORASAN 19 Jun]* 45
Iran: MKO TV Program Alleges 'Terrorist Plots' *[Baghdad TV]* 45
Iran: Paper Comments on Jordan-Israel Ties *[KEYHAN 24 Jun]* 46
Iran: OIC To Hold Post, Communications Conference in Tehran 8 Jul *[Tehran Radio]* 47

Iran: Gen. Reza'i Addresses IRGC in Khorasan *[IRNA]* 47
Iran: Rafsanjani Addresses Intelligence Officers *[Tehran TV]* 47
Iran: President—'Sound' Youth Culture Key to Political Success *[IRNA]* 47
Iran: 'Saboteurs' Arrested in Mazandaran Province *[HAMSHAHRI 29 Jun]* 48
Iran: Fa'ezeh Hashemi on Islamic Values, Role of Women in Majles *[IRAN NEWS 27 Jun]* .. 48
Iran: Leading Female Activist Addresses Critics *[IRAN NEWS 26 Jun]* 49
Iran: Majles Budget, Internal Affairs Committee Officials Elected *[RESALAT 26 Jun]* 50
Iran: Khamene'i Representative Criticizes Fuel Shortage in Sistan *[RESALAT 26 Jun]* 50
Iran: IRAN NEWS—No Election in Esfahan Unless Governor Dismissed *[26 Jun]* 51
Iran: MP's Question Minister's Right To Sack Khorasan Governor *[ABRAR 26 Jun]* 51
Iran: Article Views Friday Prayers Problems *[ASR-E MA 26 Jun]* 52
Iran: NIOC Director Outlines Plans To Increase Production *[IRNA]* 53
Iran: President Determined To Accelerate Pace of Development *[IRNA]* 53
Iran: Khorasan Petrochemical Complex Commissioned *[IRNA]* 53
Iran: Majles Deputies Urged To Forget 'Bickering' During Campaign *[KEYHAN 19 Jun]* 54

Pakistan

Pakistan: Bhutto Offers Support for Afghan Peace Efforts *[Islamabad Radio]* 54
Pakistan: President Says Government 'Working' Within Constitution *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
Pakistan: Leghari, German Delegation Discuss Kashmir Hostages *[Islamabad TV]* 55
Pakistan: Babar Seeking To Disqualify Nawaz Sharif From Parliament *[THE NEWS 30 Jun]* . 55

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 25 Jun

NC0307062096

[FBIS Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 25 June edition of the Cairo Arabic language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Writers View Arab Summit Outcome, New Israeli Government
2. Writer Discusses West's Fear of Islam

WRITERS VIEW ARAB SUMMIT OUTCOME, NEW ISRAELI GOVERNMENT

This issue of 'AQIDATI features several reports and articles on the Arab summit in Cairo. A 2,000-word unattributed report headlined "A New Birth for Arab Solidarity" on pages 1 and 3 notes that Islam's ulema were unanimous that the Arab summit was successful and witnessed a new birth of Arab solidarity, thanks to President Mubarak's efforts. The report says that one of the most important results was the thawing of the ice between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and King Husayn of Jordan and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat. The ulema, the report notes, called for convening a similar summit of Islamic countries, because it is urgently need to remove differences and enable the Islamic nation to enter the 21st century stronger and more united.

Several named ulema are cited discussing the summit. Dr. 'Abd-al-Sabur Marzuq, vice chairman of the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs, says the summit places the Arabs and Muslims at a crossroads. Either they overcome their differences and unify their rank to confront the challenges or they will remain weak and unable to resist the "schemes of enemies who have plans for us" even though they say they are "parties to the peace process." Dr. Sami al-Sha'rawi, secretary general of the Islamic Research Academy, calls on the Arab leaders to arrange an Islamic summit to heal the rift among the Islamic countries and chart an Islamic strategy to prevent Islamic countries from interfering in each other's domestic affairs and halt media campaigns among them. He stresses that "peace is the call of Islam" and of the Arab and Islamic countries. But peace must be fair and ensure the return of rights and land to their owners and provide for establishing a Palestinian state.

In a 500-word article headlined "The Cairo Summit and the Desired Hope" on page 6 Majdi Salim says that the summit emphasizes that the Arabs and Muslims can do a great deal if they unify their stand. He asserts that the summit caused "tension and anxiety" in Israel and the countries that support it although President Mubarak stressed that the summit was not against Israel. He says that Arab agreement worries them because they realize that the Arabs and Muslims have many cards to play. He says he hopes that the Arab summit will be followed by an Islamic summit, because "the Islamic bond is stronger and more influential." He says the West seeks to divide Muslims and Arabs because their unity worries it.

In a 300-word column headlined "Real Solidarity" on page 20, 'Adil Dayf says the program of the new Israeli Government came as no surprise to anyone, because there is no difference between one Israeli party and another. "They all want the land and allege that they want peace." He says the character of Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu is no different from Menahem Begin's or Yitzhaq Shamir's. "They are all terrorist and none wants peace." He says the Arab summit in Cairo was a strong response to the new Israeli "onslaught and repudiation" of agreements. He says the Islamic world must back the Arabs in their confrontation of the aggressors, who refuse to return Jerusalem to its rightful owners. The Israeli danger, he argues, threatens not only the Arabs, but the whole Islamic world.

WRITER DISCUSSES WEST'S FEAR OF ISLAM

In a 1,600-word article headlined "The West's Fear of Islam; Illusion and Reality" on the same page, Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim al-Fayyumi, secretary general of the Higher Council of Islamic Affairs, says that Westerners do not hide their constant fear of Islam, because the Islamic communities pose a major obstacle to their attempts to galvanize the world. He claims that the United States and Israel want to control the world and subjugate it to their direct influence. He adds: The Islamic peoples stand in the way of this desire. Al-Fayyumi says there is a growing movement in the Islamic world to work out a program based on Islam instead of the socialist and liberal experiments that failed to bring political and social stability to various countries. He says the only way to establish political and social stability is "a return to Islam." He notes that the Communist, Socialist, and Western ideologies failed in the Islamic world. Islam, he argues, is closer and more congenial to these peoples than all the imported ideologies that brought about defeats. He then discusses the reasons for the West's interest in the Islamic revival. He argues that Islam is not a force like the United States and all Islamic countries basically depend on others, particularly the West. "The Islamic countries fear the West and its ability to create problems for them." The rise of fundamentalism in the Islamic world, he maintains, is a form of reaction to and rebellion against the Western civilization that has begun to invade it.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: Al-Za'nun Says 'Arafat Officially Invited To Visit Damascus

TA0207123196 Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH in Arabic 1 Jul 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, QUDS PRESS — Salim al-Za'nun, Abu-al-Adib, speaker of the Palestine National Council, said that President Yasir 'Arafat has received an official invitation from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to visit Damascus and meet with him.

In a statement to QUDS PRESS, al-Za'nun said that past Palestinian-Syrian contacts as well as Palestinian-Egyptian contacts helped to prepare the climate for the holding of such a meeting. He noted that contacts are currently under way to set a date for the visit, which is expected to take place in July.

Palestinian Affairs: Abu-Rudaynah Says 'Arafat Invited To Visit Syria

JN0307103996 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 Jul 96

[Report by Rashid Hilal in Ramallah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Yasir 'Arafat called on the PLO Executive Committee and the Palestinian Authority's Council of Ministers to hold a meeting on Friday [5 July] at the Ministry of Education in Ramallah, where the president arrived aboard his helicopter yesterday.

Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, the president's adviser, said that President 'Arafat will visit Jordan on Saturday to meet with Jordanian King Husayn within the framework of exchanging viewpoints. Abu-Rudaynah said that this meeting comes as a continuation of the policy of consultation adopted for a long time. The Palestinian-Jordanian meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn is their first following the Arab summit held in Cairo last week.

On the other hand, Abu-Rudaynah said that a Syrian invitation was extended to President Yasir 'Arafat to visit Damascus. However, the date of this visit has not been set yet. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat, France's Chirac Hold 'Important' Telephone Conversation

JN0307064896 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat and French President Jacques Chirac held an important telephone conversation, in which the latter stressed the French stand based on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, the land-for-peace principle, and honoring agreements as basic conditions for the realization of a just and lasting peace in the region.

In an exclusive statement to Voice of Palestine, Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, said that the telephone conversation dealt with the results of the G-7 summit and the important communique issued at the end of the summit in support of Palestinian rights and the French efforts backing the peace process.

Abu-Rudaynah added that the president thanked President Chirac for the French efforts, in particular, and the European efforts, in general, in support of the Palestinian people's rights which were clearly evident at the G-7 summit and the communique of the European Union states issued in Florence.

Abu-Rudaynah said that the president briefed President Chirac on latest political developments in light of changes in the region. He noted that the two sides agreed to continue political contacts at the highest levels to follow up developments to maintain the peace process.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat To Visit Jordan 'Next Week'

JN0207150396 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to the president, has confirmed that President Yasir 'Arafat will visit the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan early next week for talks with King Husayn of Jordan. The talks will focus on the special Palestinian-Jordanian relations, the latest political developments, the peace process, and Arab issues of mutual concern.

This morning, the president received (Timsen), the World Bank's representative, at the Presidential Offices in Gaza. They discussed living conditions in Palestine under the continued Israeli military siege.

Palestinian Affairs: PNC Chairman Comments After Meeting Arab League Head

NC0207144396 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Jul (MENA)—Palestine National Council [PNC] Chairman Salim al-Za'nun expects the Palestinian-Israeli final status negotiations that started on 4 May to resume soon. He told reporters today, following his meeting with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, that the problem is not setting a date for resuming negotiations. The problem is in the new policy of Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and the strategy Israel will adopt in its negotiations with the Palestinians, he said.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The Palestinian official affirmed that Netanyahu's remarks on building more settlements near the self-rule areas neither worry nor scare the Palestinians, because the same settlement policy was implemented in practice during the Labor Party's rule.

On the possibility of holding a meeting between 'Arafat and Netanyahu, al-Za'nun said that two of Netanyahu's advisers met with 'Arafat recently and requested some time before the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations are resumed.

Answering a question, al-Za'nun said: We did not ask Egypt to mediate just to give momentum to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. We want to link the consensus achieved at the Cairo summit with the international support showed during the Florence and Leone summits for peace according to the land-for-peace principle, rather than the fragile formula suggested by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in view of the upcoming U.S. elections.

Al-Za'nun pointed out in his remarks that he asked the Arab League secretary general to support the PNC application for membership at the International Parliamentary Union at the meeting to be held on 16 September.

He added that he asked the secretary general to rally Arab and international support for including Jerusalem on the union's agenda at this meeting. He pointed out that the union's membership will be for the PNC, of which the elected Palestinian Legislative Council forms a part.

Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid for his part voiced support for the PNC's membership in the parliamentary union and its request to put Jerusalem on the union's agenda.

Palestinian Affairs: Abu-Marzuq—Hamas Does Not Hit U.S. Targets

MM0207151696 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Jul 96 p 4

[Report by Jamal Khashuqji in New York: "Hamas Condemns the al-Khubar Operation and Is Ready To Cooperate With Saudi Authorities"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) Political Bureau, has condemned the recent bombing in the Saudi city of al-Khubar, describing it as "a desperate act of political violence." Abu-Marzuq, who is currently in jail in New York where an Israeli request for his extradition is being examined, rejected any comparison between his movement's actions and the al-Khubar incident, saying: "We are a national liberation movement, fighting a tyrannical occupation. These actions taking place in Algeria and Egypt are only desperate acts of political violence." He added that these actions "weaken the Arab states whose support we need, and benefit Israel. They also weaken Islamic action and the call." He urged Arab governments to open up to "all their active forces in order to boost national unity."

He said that if Hamas were to get any information, it would readily cooperate with the Saudi authorities to find the perpetrators. He added, however, that "Hamas is part of a broad Islamic movement which is spread out in all Arab and Islamic states, has nothing to do with these trends on the fringes of Islamic action, and basically disagrees with them. Therefore, it would be difficult for Hamas to have relations with these trends which would enable it to provide any information that would be useful to the Saudi officials."

He reiterated Hamas' position, which rejects interference in Arab states' internal affairs, and condemned some U.S. commentators' remarks that Hamas could be among those who trained the Saudi extremists, saying: "These know nothing about Hamas. We have a long-standing policy of noninterference in Arab states' affairs. Hamas has neither training camps, nor instructors, nor any activity outside the occupied territories."

AL-HAYAH met with Abu-Marzuq in his New York jail, in the presence of a prison official who insisted that the conversation be conducted in English. Abu-Marzuq was jailed on 25 July 1995 on arrival at New York's Kennedy airport from Dubai, despite being the holder of a permanent U.S. residence permit. Abu-Marzuq refused to call the reasons for his coming to the United States a mistake, pointing out that he had visited the United States and resided there for at least six months prior to his arrest, more specifically in February last year.

Abu-Marzuq, who holds a Ph.D. in economics, formerly resided in the United States for many years, during which he obtained the right to permanent residence. He then settled in Jordan in 1989, when he emerged as a leader of Hamas, which was founded during the 1988 intifadah. Last year, as a result of Israeli and U.S. pressures, Jordan canceled his residence permit and asked him, along with two Hamas leaders, to leave the country. Abu-Marzuq's arrest on his arrival in the United States came only a few weeks later. He talked about his life in prison, saying that he lives in a single cell and that he is allowed to meet with his family only under the supervision of a prison guard. A U.S. judge approved Israel's request for Abu-Marzuq's extradition, but he has appealed against the ruling.

On whether his extradition could lead Hamas to adopt a hostile stance, or whether some of its elements would carry out operations against the United States, he said:

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

"It is not up to me. I am a prisoner and do not consult with anyone with regard to Hamas' policies. However, I would rule out any change in Hamas' position, which rejects carrying out any operations outside the occupied territories, provided that Israel does not carry out operations against Hamas outside the occupied territories. Hamas' position, which rejects carrying out operations against U.S. targets or outside the occupied territories, was adopted at a time when the United States showed blind support for Zionist aggressions. Therefore, there is nothing new with regard to the position, and the Americans still support the Israeli enemy."

Asked wether he now plays any political role, he gave a negative answer. However, he said that he is aware of what is happening thanks to the media and particularly AL-HAYAH, which he receives on a daily basis. He said that he is in fine health but that he was admitted to hospital for treatment of kidney problems.

He talked about the peace process and said that events have proved what Hamas feared, since the PLO have given the Israelis everything: Recognition, amendments to the charter, police which took the place of the occupation forces at a lesser financial and moral cost; and finally we also find that the United States is showing more readiness to understand (Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin) Netanyahu's intransigent position than the [Palestinian] National Authority [PNA's] position." He said that he fears that the situation will be frozen in its present form of "a limited self-rule" for many years, and that, after the intifadah, Israel was ready to make a better offer than Oslo to anyone who wanted it.

On reports that there are disagreements within Hamas, he reiterated Hamas' position that "there is a healthy diversity of views, but I reject sharp criticism of other people's views. Some brothers want the same objective, but may express their views differently." He pointed to Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar's statements in which he called on Hamas' military wing to put an end to armed action during the [Israeli] elections and said that his call was normal "because he did not want Hamas to look as though it wanted Likud to win, and look as though it wanted itself and its enemies destroyed, although we do not differentiate between either of them (Labor and Likud). It was necessary, however, to reassure Arab officials that we favor neither Likud nor Labor. It has now become clear that Likud won because of the Israeli voter's arrogance and intransigence rather than Hamas' operations."

He said that Hamas does not differentiate between Likud and Labor, adding that Labor leader Shim'on Peres "is a good public relations man, who knows how to make us swallow the lethal poison with our own hands," unlike Netanyahu, whom he described as racist.

On whether he thinks that it would have been better for Hamas to participate in the legislative elections, he said that from the start, Hamas was determined "to participate in all trade union and students' elections in the occupied territories to test its popularity, and indeed, did become the first party. However, in the recent elections there was an embarrassing situation, because there was the obstacle of recognizing Oslo and the PNA. However, Hamas must not be isolated, and neither should anyone be allowed to isolate it. True, the recent legislative elections and the council were restricted, but all elections in the occupied territories are useful, and we must inform the world that that is the case. Free elections cannot take place in occupied territories. Therefore, I believe that it would be better to participate in all elections, to enable Hamas to reinforce its presence in the Palestinian community."

On Israel's request for his extradition, and the fact that it holds him responsible for military action in Hamas, he said: "Those who accuse me of being responsible must produce the evidence, and not the opposite. It is clear that Hamas has military leaders, but the Israelis do not know who they are. When 'Imad 'Aql was killed they said that he was the military wing's leader. The same thing happened with Yahya 'Ayash, and they are now saying that Muhammad Dayf (is wanted)."

He added: "Israel and the PNA have recognized the existence of the Hamas Political Bureau. The PNA negotiated with it in Cairo while Israel gave the Bureau members who participated in the negotiations exit permits to travel from Gaza to Cairo, despite being aware of the reason for their departure." Hence, Abu-Marzuq believes that Israel "distinguishes between Hamas' Political Bureau and military action, and this is a fact which is internationally recognized."

Palestinian Affairs: Measures Adopted Against Dissident Fatah LC Members

TA0207123396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0930 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, member of the Palestinian Legislative Council [LC], has commented on the decision by the Fatah Central Committee to take disciplinary measures against about 10 Fatah Council members who, during the vote of confidence, voted against the government 'Arafat presented to the LC last week.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi told our correspondent Yasir 'Atilah that it is inappropriate for Fatah or any other party to punish a council member if he acts in line with the responsibility he shoulders as a representative of the voters.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Algeria

Algeria: FLN Decides To Participate in Multilateral Meetings

LD0207174796 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The National Liberation Front [FLN] today announced that it will participate in the multilateral meetings aimed at bringing together the regime, political parties, and representatives of society.

An FLN statement says that the party will take part in the national dialogue by submitting the Political Bureau's proposals aimed at achieving a consensus on a list of political principles as a basis for national accord, which will lead to national reconciliation, which in turn will provide an opportunity for the Algerian people to freely elect their representatives from among the nominees of political forces.

The National Party for Solidarity and Development also announced that it will participate in the multilateral meetings, stating that its participation is aimed at contributing along with other political parties toward ensuring the success of the national conference. [passage omitted]

Algeria: Dialogue Rejected Despite Islamists' Change of Stance

MM0307095796 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Jul 96 pp 1, 4

[Report by Amir Taheri: "Detained Leaders Accept Algerian Government's Demands; Salvation Front Leaders Urge Zeroual To Resume Dialogue"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London — The Algerian [Islamic Salvation] Front [FIS] leaders held in prison have offered to resume talks with the Algerian Government in order to help to end political violence before the general election is held next year.

The FIS leaders accepted the government's demand that they condemn violence and call for an end to armed operations before the talks can begin.

The leaders' refusal to condemn violence unconditionally led to the collapse of the dialogue with the government last year.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT learned about the FIS leaders' new position from four Algerian opposition leaders who are in contact with Abassi Madani, leader of the outlawed front.

The four leaders spoke on the condition that they remain anonymous, because contacts with the outlawed party are considered a violation of the law under a ministerial decree issued last year.

One of the leaders said that "there has been a dramatic change in the FIS leaders' position. They are aware that the presidential election held last year have created new conditions. They also know that the Armed Islamic Group [GIA] has its own program."

Answering a question about what the detained leaders want to discuss with the authorities, the mediating leaders told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the important point in which the FIS leaders are interested is the resumption of the dialogue. One mediator said that "the government should test the leaders' good intentions and give them the opportunity to call for an end to violence. Even an unofficial dialogue would help to ease the tension and isolate the Afghans [Algerians who fought alongside Afghan mojahedin]."

The authorities say that they have no intention of initiating any dialogue of that kind. An official told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that, "if leaders of the outlawed front want to condemn violence and call for a halt to bloodshed, they can do so at any time they want without the need for preliminary talks in this connection."

But the opposition leaders mediating with the FIS leaders reject this view, saying that the front's leaders need to hold talks on the conditions for halting armed activities and handing over the weapons of the armed groups loyal to them, and also for restoring normal life. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Egypt: Musa Receives Phone Call From Israel's Levi on Peace Talks

NC0207210296 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 2 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who is now in London, received a telephone call from Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi on developments in the Middle East peace process.

MENA learned that the Israeli minister said in the conversation that his country is interested in continuing to work with Egypt for the sake of peace.

For his part, Musa stressed that the peace negotiations must resume on the basis of the Madrid conference resolutions, the land-for-peace principle, and the agreements reached so far on the various negotiating tracks.

The two ministers agreed to continue their contacts before Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's visit to Egypt to support peace efforts in the region.

This is the first contact between Levi and Musa since the new Israeli Government was established.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Egypt: Musa Comments on Peace Process in BBC Interview

NC0307060196 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2100 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 2 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa described the Middle East peace process as an urgent mission. He said anything needed to achieve peace must be done as soon as possible.

Speaking to the BBC, Musa said: An Israeli Government has been established, its policy is becoming clear, and we cannot wait indefinitely or for many months.

He said Egypt is particularly watching developments on the Palestinian negotiating track. He noted here the closure of the border between Israel and the Palestinians.

He said: If the Israeli Government fails to move — and I believe it will move — "then intensive consultations and diplomatic activity must take place".

Musa said the issue of peace does not concern the Israelis and Palestinians alone. He said many regional and international forces are interested in peace in the region and will not accept an end to the peace process, or a complication of the steps taken so far.

He expressed optimism that the peace process will be resumed and that the principles of peace, notably a land-for-peace exchange, will be respected. No one can take the risk of challenging the whole world, he said.

Musa said the Arab summit resolutions reiterated the Arab position on the peace process, as it reasserted the basic principles of peace in accordance with UN resolutions, international law, and the agreements that have been signed so far. He said peace is a strategic option for the Arabs.

Musa added: We are supposed to hear the new Israeli Government saying that peace is also a strategic option for the Israelis. This must be put in practice by continuing withdrawal from the Palestinian territory, resuming talks with the Palestinians, and activating negotiations on the Lebanese track on the basis of the agreed upon principle of land for peace. [passage omitted]

Egypt: Journalist on Scud Missile Issue, U.S. Policy

NC0207153896 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 29 Jun 96 pp 1, 8

[Article by chief editor Ibrahim Sa'dah: "This Is Our Fate With Uncle Sam!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] I am not surprised by the current U.S. clamor against Egypt because of allegations made by official U.S. circles that the Egyptian Armed Forces have acquired components for Scud surface-to-surface missiles from North Korea. This is not the first time, nor will it be the last, that Uncle Sam provokes a crises with the Egyptian leadership whenever this leadership obtains a victory, scores a goal, or achieves a world-class breakthrough for its people and its Arab nation.

Uncle Sam's uproarious wrath against Egypt and its leaders would have been more understandable if the Egyptian pan-Arab and global victories and successes had been directed against U.S. interests, in their strongholds of influence inside and outside the Middle East. What is difficult to understand or accept is that all these achievements were totally unconnected with U.S. interests. What is really strange and astonishing is that Uncle Sam has always become angry with Egyptian policy whenever Israel believed that Egyptian policy contradicted its interests or gave succor to the Palestinian Arabs, the Syrian Arabs, or the Lebanese Arabs in the peace negotiations. This means that Uncle Sam does not get angry when the issue is about his own interests, but when Israeli attitudes are being resisted or when Uncle Sam imagines that something is threatening Israeli interests or undermining Israel's position in the peace talks.

These eruptions of U.S. anger are still fresh in our minds. We cannot forget how the U.S. Administration and the U.S. Congress' two venerable houses flew into a rage and how the U.S. media—audiovisual and print—launched rabid campaigns against Egypt, its policies, government, and leaders whenever relations became tense between Cairo and Tel Aviv for whatever reason.

For example, when President Husni Mubarak urged that the Middle East be cleared of all weapons of mass destruction, his humanitarian and civilized call did not find a response from the world's current sole superpower, the United States, which had for many years trumpeted the virtues of the new world it sought to establish where all nations would live in peace and security, with no ominous wars and no nuclear weapons capable of total annihilation and extinction of the human race. This same superpower, which now solely leads the new peaceable world, became angry with us because we urged Israel to comply with the peace and amity advocated by the United States and to reject weapons of mass destruction!

We thought that President Mubarak's call would be greatly appreciated by the U.S. Administration. This is in line with the principles and the world peace objectives this administration has heralded. It is amazingly odd that this call was fiercely resisted by Washington, just because the only Middle Eastern state which Egyptian

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak demanded give up its arsenals of weapons of mass destruction is Israel. As we all know, the United States is prepared to offend any state in the five continents except the Hebrew state, which was implanted in the middle of the Arab nation.

Uncle Sam may welcome the elimination of all weapons in the Middle East, as long as this means ridding Arab countries of these destructive weapons that can threaten the security of the Israelis today or tomorrow. But Uncle Sam strongly and fiercely refuses any attempt on the part of the president of the biggest and strongest Arab state in the region—President Mubarak—to touch the arsenal of weapons of mass destruction—including nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons—which its fostered child Israel owns.

It was inconceivable for Uncle Sam to reject the civilized, humanitarian, and peaceful call President Mubarak publicly made, since this would reflect a crude contradiction between what the U.S. Administration said yesterday and what it is saying today. Uncle Sam naturally ignored President Mubarak's call, at the same time its frantic trumpets were launching a campaign against Egypt to defame it, question its intentions and threaten it and perhaps prompt the Egyptian president to withdraw his call or spare Israel the need to respond to this call and let it keep its weapons, destructive methods, and threats to its Arab neighbors.

The U.S. trumpets left no single Egyptian economic accomplishment without question. The Congress committees left no Egyptian cultural progress the Egyptian leadership achieved for the people without criticizing it or holding meetings of various committees to listen to the views of the White House and State Department officials. These views were agreed with and intensified the organized defamation campaign against Egypt, so that the American media machine could take over and expand the scope of dishonoring Egypt, the Egyptians, and the Egyptian leadership before the American public.

When President Mubarak declared his rejection of the oppressive terrorist practices the Israeli authorities exercised against the Palestinians in the occupied territories, as well as attempts to punish the majority of peaceable Palestinians for what was done by a minority that rejects the peace process, Uncle Sam rushed into declaring its views of what the president said in the usual manner. Once again, we found ourselves before a sudden slander campaign against Egypt and the Egyptians, a campaign in which the leading role was given to the U.S. organizations that claim to protect human rights. Overnight, we found the U.S. Administration deliberately forgetting all its close and cordial ties with the biggest and strongest state in the Middle East and giving the green light to the human right associations and organizations, numerous as they are in the United States, to paint a black picture of everything and anything in Egypt.

They said the Egyptian Government violates human rights. They said Egypt's prisons and jails are full of innocent Egyptians, so much so that the government has set aside several billion pounds to build more prisons in the country. They said the Egyptian Government does not respect political opposition and that it suppresses freedom, stifles opinion, cuts off tongues, and arrests opponents claiming they are "terrorists" and denies them their right to a fair trial!

And when the Egyptian leadership continued to reject the oppression against the Palestinian people at the hand of the Israeli executioners, who make no distinction between a peaceful Palestinian citizen and another who has been recruited by some party or another to carry out a suicide attack against the Israelis, the United States reacted to this Egyptian rejection of Israel's policy of "collective punishment" in the same way, slandering and condemning Egypt and the Egyptians. Not only this, the Americans added another extremely serious and strange practice: We were surprised to see the biggest country in the world opening its border to receive and welcome every criminal, killer, and terrorist who succeeded in fleeing from Egypt after perpetrating his crimes. They received entry visas to "the American paradise!" Scores of terrorists, prison escapees, and fugitives from justice received every care and attention from the U.S. Administration, which claimed that it does not shelter terrorists or protect terrorism, but opens the country for "political opponents" and "human right activists," irrespective of their nationality, religion, or ideology!

When the Egyptian Government expressed astonishment that a criminal terrorist like Shyakh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman — a man responsible for issuing fatwas [religious edicts] of murder, theft, sabotage, and bombing — was allowed into the United States, the U.S. Administration tried to deny this at the beginning, but it was later forced to admit that Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman received his entry visa from the American consulate in Khartoum. It said the issuance of his visa was a mistake by the consulate's computer, which failed to show the criminal record of this dangerous terrorist who is wanted in connection with dozens of crimes!

The Egyptian leadership did not give much attention to this strange U.S. position of sheltering terrorists, killers, and thieves wanted by Interpol. The United States believed this position may serve its interests, or may strengthen its position and relations when the legitimate regimes fall to the thieves, murderers, and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

terrorists, if not in the 21st century, then perhaps in the 51st!

But the Egyptian Government found itself dutybound to advise the U.S. Administration that terrorism knows no border; that is, a terrorist does not distinguish between one country and another or between one people and another when he perpetrates his crimes. Egypt told the United States that it must not imagine that providing care and attention to fugitive terrorists will prevent them from harming the American people themselves. These terrorists are expected to continue their crimes against the United States, its people, and its interests at the first opportunity to flex their muscles and to impose their conditions later!

It is clear that U.S. "security experts" did not heed this advice. Their confidence in themselves, their capabilities and resources, and their belief that they could hear an ant's footsteps even before the ant moved its leg made them ignore the Egyptian advice. Perhaps they made fun of this advice and ridiculed the people who had the audacity to offer advice to the greatest experts on the planet in matters of providing security and peace for their own people and friendly nations.

Hardly a few months had passed when the Americans were rudely awakened by the catastrophic bombing of the World Trade Center in the heart of New York City. The real calamity was that investigations proved the validity of the Egyptian warning, namely, that terrorist 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman was the chief planner of this big explosion.

The U.S. Administration did not act to confront terrorism, except after suffering its effects both at the World Trade Center and in the bombing of a federal building in Oklahoma City last year. Prior to these crimes, the United States had so much confidence in its capabilities and in the efficiency of its agencies that could hear the footsteps of ants that it did not pay any attention to the threat of terrorism and terrorists. On the contrary, we used to see the Americans flirting with terrorist leaders, recruiting them to carry out their dirty work worldwide, supplying them with money, and providing them with safe havens inside U.S. borders, beyond the reach of the hands of justice of many countries that wanted them in connection with one incident or another.

Because terrorism had started to make inroads into the United States itself, the U.S. Administration hastened to completely change its attitude to terrorism. Confronting terrorism and pursuing and punishing terrorists has now become a number one priority issue for President Clinton. This came in response to the huge terrorist bombing near a military base in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, where hundreds, mostly Americans, Saudis, and Bangladeshis were killed or wounded. Some Egyptians were also among the wounded. Furthermore, President Clinton insisted on putting the terrorism issue and ways of pursuing terrorists worldwide on the agenda of the G-7 summit in Lyons, France. Clinton told journalists that he will present to the conference a 40-point proposal capable of eradicating terrorism worldwide.

The U.S. Administration's preoccupation with its victims who fell in terrorist crimes has not stopped it from returning to its game of slandering Egypt and the Egyptians. This has become a U.S. addiction whenever the Egyptian leadership adopts a position that is acclaimed by the whole world, with the exception of Israel of course. After the Likud Party climbed to power under the leadership of Bibi Netanyahu, Israel was unhappy with Egyptian backing for peace and Egypt's adherence to the UN resolutions agreed upon as a basis for peace between Israel and the Arabs. Netanyahu's party wishes to slip from the grasp of these resolutions and repudiate the agreements Israel made. It wants to impose on the Palestinians and Syrians only a peace-for-peace formula, not a land-for-peace principle as all the concerned parties, with the United States at their head, already agreed on.

It was not possible, vis-a-vis this Israeli attitude, for Egypt to remain a spectator as if the security and rights of the fraternal Palestinian and Syrian nations did not matter or as if—just as Israel would like—they did not constitute a justifiable cause to halt normalization between the Arabs and Israel.

President Mubarak was the first to realize the seriousness of this Israeli stance on the indispensable and unavoidable peace process. He also thought that a response to this stance should come from the entire Arab nation, so that it would serve as a clear message to the whole world that Israel is the one who is hindering the peace process and the Arabs are the ones who are sticking to it and are afraid of the prospects that it could be impeded or suspended.

President Mubarak managed to assemble the Arabs, through their kings and presidents, in a first Arab summit meeting held in Cairo since the last stormy summit of 1990, immediately after the Gulf crisis broke out.

As this Egyptian move succeeded, there were unanimous expectations that the Israeli anger would not be confined within the borders of the Israeli state and that it would go beyond those borders and reach the heart of the U.S. capital, Washington, from where it would bounce back to Egypt in a more clear and expressive way.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

This is what actually happened with the start of a propaganda and diplomatic campaign planned and carried out by uncle Sam, with his known and usual proficiency against Egypt and its policy and leadership. What is knew about this frenzied defamatory campaign is that uncle Sam invented the issue of Scud missiles. It has been said that Egypt obtained manufacturing components of these missiles from North Korea. The aim of this was to justify the new campaign, with which perhaps Egypt would be intimidated and Egypt's leadership would be convinced to be slow and patient before contemplating an attempt to embarrass the Likud party's new government in Israel.

The U.S. Administration does not want Egypt or others to create any crisis that might weaken President Clinton's chances for reelection in the November presidential elections. The head of the new Israeli Government, Netanyahu, knows this fact very well and he also knows that the U.S. Administration will not allow any tension between it and Israel during the election campaign months, for concern over the Jewish lobby's votes. This alone gave Netanyahu the opportunity to make unbridled statements, to be emotive in his threats, to renege on his country's obligations, and to relish the Palestinian people's fears. Netanhayu does all this because he knows very well that President Clinton's administration will not anger him nor oppose him and that the administration will not hesitate to renounce all previous commitments that it had asserted and declared it would be obliged to implement.

Sudan

Sudan: DUP Repudiates al-Hindi, Says No Contacts With Regime

MM0207160196 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Jul 96 p 4

[Report by Zayn-al-'Abidin Ahmad: "Sudanese Unionist Party Attacks al-Bashir-al-Hindi Meeting in Cairo"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — The Sudanese opposition Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] has renewed its stand of rejecting any negotiation or reconciliation with the regime in Khartoum. It described Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir's meeting with al-Sharif Zayn-al-'Abidin al-Hindi as "an attempt to thwart the national stand at a delicate and difficult time when all the Sudanese people's forces are preparing to pounce upon the regime to get rid of it."

In a statement, issued in Cairo and signed by party deputy leader Ahmad al-Sayyid Hamad, about the meeting reportedly held between Lt. Gen. al-Bashir and DUP Secretary General al-Sharif Zayn-al-'Abidin al-Hindi, who is leading a wing that is in dispute with the party led by Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, the DUP said that al-Sharif al-Hindi played no role in the DUP during the struggle against the al-Turabi front [National Islamic Front]. And he also adopted a position against the Democratic National Grouping, which represents all the Sudanese people, since 30 June 1989, and he continued to express views against national consensus.

The statement added that "the DUP's masses inside and outside the country, proceeding from their fixed stands and principles, know fully that al-Sharif Zayn-al-'Abidin al-Hindi represents only himself." The statement added that the DUP, which led the crucial issues conference in June last year, "stresses its commitment to the resolutions in whose implementation it participated through the real reactivation of the opposition's mechanisms inside the country and abroad for the sake of toppling and uprooting the regime."

The statement condemned the move, stressing the party's clear and conclusive position toward the regime, its policies, and its practices. [passage omitted]

Sudan: Nubah Mountains Wing of SPLM Declares Unilateral Cease-Fire

AB0207222396 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1407 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum 2 July; The Nubah Mountains wing of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement [SPLM], has declared a unilateral cease-fire as an initiative to create an atmosphere conducive to conducting a dialogue which aims at finding (?a solution) to the problem of war and dispute in Sudan. Muhammad Harun Kafi, chairman of the central committee of the Nubah Mountains wing of the movement declared its withdrawal from the movement last Friday [28 June]. He said in a statement to SUNA that he had directed his military bases to abide by the cease-fire. He pointed out that so long as fighting continued, negotiations could not be held in a conducive atmosphere.

It is worth mentioning that John Garang has mentioned that 60 percent of his combatants are from the Nubah Mountains.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Bahrain

Bahrain: Syria's al-Shar' Brings al-Asad Message to Amir

JN0207153996 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1435 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 2 Jul (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, received a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad concerning a host of current regional issues, the strong fraternal ties between the two sisterly states, and issues of mutual concern.

The message was delivered by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' during a meeting with his highness the amir of Bahrain here today.

Al-Shar' conveyed to his highness the amir His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's greetings and best wishes of continued progress, prosperity, and well-being to Bahrain.

His highness the amir praised the strong brotherly ties between Bahrain and Syria. He also hailed Syria's efforts to preserve the region's security and stability and to close Arab ranks.

His highness asked al-Shar' to convey greetings to his excellency the Syrian president. He also wished Syria continued glory and progress under its political leadership.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, the foreign minister; Ghazi Muhammad al-Qusaybi, the Foreign Ministry under secretary; Nabil Ibrahim Qambar, the director general of the Protocol Department; and Muhammad al-Mahamid, Bahrain's ambassador to Syria.

Bahrain: Foreign Minister Holds Talks With Syria's al-Shar'

JN0207182596 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Jul 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak held a session of talks in Manama today. The two countries' delegations attended.

The two sides reviewed the results of [al-Shar's] visit to Tehran and Iran's positive stands toward the security of Bahrain and the Gulf region.

Before leaving Bahrain, Faruq al-Shar' held a telephone conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, during which he briefed him on the results of his visit to Bahrain.

Bahrain: Syria's al-Shar' Says Efforts 'Crowned With Success'

JN0207160596 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1445 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 2 Jul (WAKH)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' left Manama for Damascus today following a brief visit to Bahrain during which he conveyed a message to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, from his brother His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

In a predeparture statement to WAKH, al-Shar' said that he conveyed to his highness the amir a message from his brother his excellency the Syrian president dealing with relations between Bahrain and Iran, the removal of misunderstandings, and ending the differences and all that tarnished relations between the two neighboring countries.

Al-Shar' added that he also carried a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani dealing with the same issue. He voiced satisfaction with the favorable response by his highness the amir and the Iranian president to the Syrian president's efforts and good offices which are aimed to preserve Bahrain's security and stability.

The Syrian foreign minister expressed satisfaction that the Syrian efforts have been crowned with success. He said he hoped relations between Bahrain and Iran would return to normal. He added that the agreement by the Bahraini and Iranian governments to halt media campaigns against each other was a good start. God willing, this will be followed by other steps, so relations of good neighborliness and cooperation between Bahrain and Iran will return to their previous state, al-Shar' added.

Bahrain: Foreign Minister Lauds Syrian Mediation With Iran

JN0207184896 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 2 Jul (WAKH)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the delegation accompanying him left Manama for Damascus this evening following a brief visit to Bahrain during which he conveyed a message to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, from his brother His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Regarding al-Shar's visit to the country today, Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah said: Bahrain appreciates the good offices

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

fraternal Syria has made under the kind directives of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, proceeding from its pan-Arab commitment to Bahrain's security and stability which is part of the Arab nation's security and stability.

The Bahraini foreign minister welcomed the visit of Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar' who conveyed a message to the amir of Bahrain from Syrian President al-Asad. He lauded President al-Asad's interest in, and concern for, Bahrain's security and stability as well as his sincere efforts to preserve the security, stability, and safety of the region.

The Bahraini foreign minister added that the Syrian good offices resulted in agreement to halt media campaigns between Bahrain and Iran as a first step toward improving relations between both countries. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Kuwait Reiterates Support for Gulf Action To Confront Terrorism

LD0207122496 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1105 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 2 Jul — Kuwait has reiterated its rejection to whatever undermines the security and stability of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, whoever the perpetrator or whatever the pretext may be. Kuwait expressed its deep concern regarding the sinful explosion in Khubar town which targeted innocent people and tried to undermine the stability and security of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the safety of its citizens.

His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwait's heir apparent and prime minister, said: "Kuwait's amir, government, and people condemn such dangerous terrorist and criminal practices."

In a statement to 'UKAZ newspaper published here today, Tuesday, he added: Our countries and people have never known such terrorist crimes and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a safe, stable, and peaceful country which embraces the two holy mosques and welcomes hundreds of thousands of Muslims coming from everywhere."

His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah explained that the explosion in Khubar was received with great indignation and condemnation by all Muslims of the world.

He expressed the hope that God Almighty will help the appropriate Saudi authorities to arrest the sinful culprits. He stressed the need to confront terrorism with determination and firmness, making it clear that Kuwait will support any Gulf meeting aimed at achieving this objective within the framework of a single collective body. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: ABC Team Reportedly Expelled After 'Threat' Story

MM0307132996 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 3 Jul 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Threats to Senior Saudi Officials With Wave of Attacks"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Washington, Riyadh, London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI, REUTER, AFP — [passage omitted] It has been reported that the Saudi authorities expelled the ABC network 's correspondent and the technical team working with him after the network broadcast its report, although it was based on sources in Washington, not Riyadh. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia: Dissident Al-Mas'ari Reacts to Condemnation by Rifkind

MM0307130396 London BBC Radio Four Network in English 0530 GMT 3 Jul 96

[Statement by Saudi dissident Muhammad al-Mas'ari; from the "Today" program presented by James Naughtie — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Naughtie] [British] Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind is going to Jordan today after a Middle East visit in which he's reassured the government of Saudi Arabia of Britain's support in the aftermath of the bombing of American servicemen at Dhahran. Mr. Rifkind told the Saudis that he found it disgusting that the attack hadn't been condemned by the Saudi dissident Muhammad al-Mas'ari, who is in Britain. Some of his views, said the foreign secretary, were Neanderthal. That provoked this response from Mr. al-Mas'ari.

[Al-Mas'ari] I use sometimes quite sharp language and I think we all as human beings have our own weaknesses, but I thought from a very responsible secretary of state for the Foreign and Commonwealth [Office] you expect a more polished and more sophisticated language. But possibly he wants also to please the Al Sa'ud regime, and this is also a consideration which is of importance for the government possibly.

[Naughtie] That was Mr. al-Mas'ari.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Iraq: Al-Anbari Hopes for Agreement With UN Within 'Few Days'

JN0207190396 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The United Nations, 2 Jul (INA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari has declared that his talks with officials of the UN General Secretariat are being conducted in the context of cooperation. He described these talks as highly constructive, businesslike, and friendly.

In press statements published in New York today, Ambassador Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari added that he hopes the two sides will reach agreement on the plan for the distribution of food supplies and other basic necessities within a few days.

Ambassador al-Anbari went on to say that Iraq is holding talks with the UN General Secretariat only, and with no other party, as provided for in the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Iraq and the UN General Secretariat. He noted that all parties must respect the jurisdiction of the UN secretary general, who alone has the authority to approve the distribution plan.

In a separate development, France asserted that nobody except the UN secretary general has the authority to approve the distribution plan, which is provided for in the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Iraq and the United Nations.

This was stated to the correspondent of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY in Paris by French Foreign Ministry Spokesman Jacques Rummerlahardt.

The spokesman added that France took notice of this plan, and that it is the prerogative of the UN secretary general to approve it.

Iraq: Ekeus Missile Claim Said Part of U.S. Plan To Starve Iraqis

MM0307084196 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 2 Jul 96 p 15

[Editorial: "Iraq's Hidden Missiles"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The "obscure" visits which Rolf Ekeus, the international official in charge of destroying Iraqi weapons, makes to Kuwait every now and again raise a few question marks, since it [Kuwait] is not the UN headquarters, nor is it a compulsory stop on any return flight from Baghdad.

What is surprising and odd is that Ekeus, like Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, changes his tune completely after his first meeting with Kuwaiti officials, adopting expressions which suit his hosts and help maintain the blockade on the Iraqi people.

After his arrival in Kuwait yesterday, Ekeus announced that he is concerned because Iraq is still hiding weapons and refuses to give information. He went so far as to say that Iraq still has 6-16 long-range missiles capable of carrying chemical or biological warheads.

Such statements can only make the blockade last longer and reveal the secret U.S. intentions to hit Iraq, but do not reassure the Kuwaitis who live in a permanent state of fear due to the fact that the ruling regime is still in power in Baghdad despite the tens of billions spent to topple it.

It may not be a surprise to us, at least, that Ekeus should make such statements on the Iraqi missiles, at a time when the U.S. Administration has rejected a detailed Iraqi plan for distributing the food to be bought under the terms of the oil-for-food deal.

The plan is clear, and the observer need not make much effort to recognize the main objectives that those behind it are trying to achieve, namely to worsen the Iraqis' plight and kill as many of them as possible through starvation and disease.

As a result of intense international and local pressures, the U.S. Government reluctantly approved a partial lifting [of the embargo] on Iraqi oil. Through images and sound, U.S. public opinion saw how over 700,000 Iraqis, including over 300,000 children, died over the past six years because of shortages of medicines and medical supplies. International organizations in the United States began to hold the U.S. Government responsible for this human catastrophe.

It is likely that, by rejecting the Iraqi plan on food distribution, President Clinton's administration wanted to play for time until the five months preceding the U.S. elections are over, after which it would be in a stronger position, enabling it to direct military strikes at Iraq and officially implement plans for its partitioning.

It cannot be ruled out that it may have suggested that Ekeus make such statements to justify the measures used to prevent the food from reaching the Iraqi people, otherwise why always create problems with the Iraqi Government and demand that sensitive areas, including the Republican Guard's headquarters, be inspected?

And even if Ekeus' statements about Iraq possessing 16 long-range missiles were true, what could these missiles do to Kuwait or Israel? Does their presence justify starving 1 million Iraqis?

The talk of these missiles being able to carry chemical or biological warheads is an insult to human intelligence, because all these warheads were completely destroyed,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and if Iraq did not use them during the attack, why should it use them now that the war is over?

Iraq: UN Help Sought To Secure Release of POW's in Iran

JN0307080196 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 3 Jul (INA) — Iraq asked the United Nations to put pressure on Iran to find a solution to the suffering of Iraqi POW's and to release and repatriate them. In a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said Iraq's request is in line with Paragraph 3 of Security Council Resolution No. 598 and in coordination with the International Committee for the Red Cross [ICRC].

The foreign minister said Iraq is ready to cooperate with the UN secretary general and the ICRC to repatriate all Iraqi POW's, especially since Iraq has fulfilled its international obligations under the Third Geneva Convention of 1949 on treating POW's.

The foreign minister added that Iraq did everything possible and tried all methods to make Iran implement its commitments under the Third Geneva Convention of 1949, but to no avail, since Iran refuses to cooperate with the ICRC to carry out its duties in line with the provisions of the Geneva Convention.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said Iran insists — without any justification — on ill-treating Iraqi POW's in contravention of the simplest rules of international law. Those Iraqi POW's have been held in Iran for more than 15 years.

Iraq: France Urged To Confront U.S. Efforts To 'Control' Europe

JN0207111896 Baghdad INA in English 1020 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, July 2, INA — An Iraqi paper has expressed confidence in the success of France's strategy to establish an independent regional and international role for Europe. The success of this mission depends on Paris' success in confronting Washington's desire to control European policies.

In an article published Tuesday [2 July], AL-JUMHURIYAH said that the United States, in coordination with Britain, has directed all its forces and activities against French national ambitions since France's foreign minister proposed the establishment of a European federation.

The paper referred to London and Washington plans to confront France's attitudes, saying that despite U.S. and British obstacles, France has gone forward in building its nuclear force to protect its national security and independent defence force.

The daily said that to guarantee the success of its endeavour, France has to confront America's control of the Atlantic alliance.

Iraq: Trade Minister Says Indonesia To Buy 'Huge Amount' of Oil

JN0107124496 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, July 1, INA—Iraq's Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih has said Indonesian companies have expressed the desire to supply Iraq with goods, foodstuff, medicine as well as other basic requirements.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH daily after returning from Indonesia where he led a delegation to meetings of the Iraqi-Indonesian Joint Commission for Economic, Trade and Technical Cooperation, Dr. Salih said Indonesian oil companies expressed the desire to buy huge amounts of Iraqi oil.

He added that the meetings centered on discussing means of further developing bilateral relations in trade, economic and technical fields in the interest of the two friendly peoples.

Iraq: Saddam's Half-Brothers Reportedly Under House Arrest

MM0307102396 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Jul 96 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Two of Saddam Husayn's Brothers Reportedly Under House Arrest"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Iraqi opposition sources have said that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has put his half-brothers Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, former interior minister, and Sab'awi Ibrahim al-Hasan, former public security director, under house arrest.

The "Freedom Radio" [idha'at al-huriyah] run by the [Unified] Iraqi National Congress said in a bulletin of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT received a transcript yesterday that the measure is attributable to "Watban's and Sab'awi's desire to travel abroad as a result of intensifying disputes among members of the ruling family." The bulletin added that the two brothers fear that "'Udayy (the Iraqi president's eldest son) might eliminate them because of the heated competition among the regime's key elements, since 'Udayy is suspicious of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

their links with some officers and influential elements in Tikrit (the Iraqi president's birthplace).

The sources cited what they termed "sources close to the family" as saying that the two brothers are being held in their own homes under the close watch of the special services since they revealed their intention to travel to Jordan for medical treatment.

'Udayy Saddam Husayn reportedly opened fire on his uncle Watban al-Hasan last year, as a result of which Watban sustained wounds which led to one of his legs' being amputated.

The sources added that the Iraqi president appears to be concerned over the idea of his two brothers' traveling to Jordan, "especially since he has suffered a big disappointment with all his relatives since the defection to Jordan last year of Husayn Kamil (his son-in-law and former industry minister) and his brother Saddam Kamil."

As is known, the two brothers have a third brother, namely Barzan Ibrahim al-Hasan, who is in Geneva as Iraq's ambassador at the UN European headquarters. Reports talk constantly of disagreements between 'Udayy Saddam Husayn and Barzan, who has not visited Iraq for several years.

Iraq: Opposition 'National Congress' Meets To Rectify 'Deviation'

MM0207152696 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Jul 96 p 4

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Al-Naqib Talks of Move To Tackle Iraqi National Congress 'Deviation'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — Major General Hasan al-Naqib, member of the Presidential Council of the opposition [Unified] Iraqi National Congress, has said that 50 members of the "national assembly" arising from the congress met in Damascus recently to "rectify the deviation led" by Ahmad al-Jalabi, head of the Executive Council. He added that the meeting's aim was to "launch a corrective move against the deviation in the congress."

Al-Naqib went on to say: "We will not put pressure on anyone, and it is up to others to join us in order to restore the spirit to the congress on a patriotic basis." He added: "We cannot remain silent about what is happening."

An official statement issued in Damascus, of which AL-HAYAH has received a copy, said that the participants "agreed on the need to meet constantly in order to assess and bolster the congress' moves and ensure that it is moving in the right direction for the sake of establishing a democratic alternative in Iraq."

The statement added that "an appeal will be made to hold a meeting of all members of the assembly when conditions are favorable." Dana 'Abd-al-Majid, representative of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (led by Jalal Talabani), has denied any knowledge of the meeting. Meanwhile opposition sources said that the meeting "is a coup" against al-Jalabi, who is "trying to freeze the vitality [hayawiyah]" of the Salah al-Din conference in the light of the suspension of the Presidential Council's membership, which includes, in addition to al-Naqib, both Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum and Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Israel: Netanyahu on Terrorism, Relations With 'Arafat

AU0207141596 Munich FOCUS in German 1 Jul 96 pp 168-170

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Anna-Patricia Kahn and Pinhas Inbari; place and date not given: "Germany Is an Example"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [FOCUS] We know what security means for Israel, but what is your vision of peace in the Middle East?

[Netanyahu] Peace and security are indivisible. There can be no talk about a peace process if at the same time buses are blown up in the center of Tel Aviv and we are exposed to barbarian terrorism on all fronts. That is why we are expecting our Arab partners to make extreme efforts to stop terrorism. Every country would expect that of its partners, and we are not different in this respect.

[FOCUS] You say that where there is terrorism, there can be no peace. Does that mean that you grant terrorism the right of veto?

[Netanyahu] On the contrary. By stating that the peace process can be continued despite terrorism, we give our partner an opportunity to use terrorism as an instrument to reach his political goals. That is precisely what the previous government did. The consequence was a wild escalation of terrorism. We want to have peace on all fronts — with the Syrians, the Palestinians, and all the others — but not with closed eyes. For the Syrians to send the Hizballah to attack us, shows that they are playing a double game. For the Palestinian Authority to allow Hamas to operate from their territory, also shows that they are playing a double game, too. We are seeking true peace without violence.

[FOCUS] There is a verbal escalation between Syria and Israel. Is a war imminent?

[Netanyahu] We have no interest in confrontation with Syria, we are seeking reconciliation. However, the Syrians should be aware that we do not tolerate terrorism along our borders. If they like, they can stop not only Hizballah terrorism, but also terrorist attacks on civilians within our country. Groups like the Islamic Jihad, Hamas, and the People's Front all have their bases in Damascus.

There are today two countries in the Middle East from which terrorism emanates — Syria and Iran, which continues to build its atomic bomb; this is an alarming idea for all civilized countries. Germany and all Western countries should do everything in their power to prevent this.

[FOCUS] How are you going to stop terrorism?

[Netanyahu] There are two ways to combat terrorism. The one is a direct fight, but this is not enough. The other is political and economic pressure on countries giving terrorists operational bases. Measures to prevent this must be taken internationally.

[FOCUS] What do you suggest?

[Netanyahu] How did Germany combat the Baader-Meinhof group? Were they offered parts of Berlin or a secure resort? Certainly not. The way Germany dealt with this terrorist group is exemplary. Germany fought them. If Germany had acted differently, terrorism would have become a daily evil.

[FOCUS] You say a Palestinian state is out of the question. However, only a state can satisfy 'Arafat. How are you going to solve this dilemma?

[Netanyahu] I do not know what 'Arafat is dreaming about. We read in many Palestinian publications that they would not even be satisfied with a state. The Palestinians insist on their right to return: This would spell the end of Israel. They do not want a part of Jerusalem, they want the whole city. It is absurd to negotiate from such a position. Germany would not do so, either. I have met many leading Arabs and Arab diplomats, both secretly and officially. I told them I would negotiate with them in the same way that they have been doing with me. However, I cannot predict the results of such negotiations. I reject conditions that are literally imposed upon us. This has nothing to do with fairness in a diplomatic process.

[FOCUS] What is, then, left as a negotiation basis?

[Netanyahu] Our security must be brought into line with the Palestinians' need to settle their own affairs. Of course, we will observe agreements signed. I do not have the wish to bring pressure to bear on the Palestinians.

Our policy will be to promote economic prosperity for the Palestinian territories. I firmly believe in a policy of open markets, not only for Israel, but also for the Palestinians, Jordanians, and the whole world. Openness and economic prosperity are the foundation stones of peace.

[FOCUS] So you are ready to support the Palestinian economy, are you?

[Netanyahu] I am sure we can cooperate well.

[FOCUS] Is the containment of terrorism by the Palestinians the condition for their economic growth?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Netanyahu] I do not think Palestinian children will have to suffer if terrorism can be contained. I will always check whether this is being done, and I hope we will not have to enforce it, and that the Palestinian leadership will combat terrorism as it has done in the last three months.

[FOCUS] The U.S. and European governments consider 'Arafat the elected leader of the Palestinian people. You are said to have problems spelling out his name.

[Netanyahu] What the press writes about me does not interest me. We intend to meet with the Palestinian leadership at all levels — both with 'Arafat's representatives and with him personally.

[FOCUS] Are you having personal difficulties in meeting with 'Arafat?

[Netanyahu] I will overcome every personal difficulty. I am not here to give free rein to my personal feelings. I am here to act in line with the Israeli people's interests.

[FOCUS] You have always stressed that Jerusalem will not be divided. How can you keep this promise?

[Netanyahu] Because it is my conviction. The Jewish people have been connected with this city spiritually and factually for 3,000 years. It is the strongest connection between a people and its city in history. We will not allow this connection to be destroyed. Would you be ready to rebuild the Berlin Wall and to see the city divided again? Certainly not.

[FOCUS] There are rumors that the Orient House will be blocked.

[Netanyahu] We swore an oath that we would respect the Oslo agreements. However, we will not tolerate any Palestinian authorities in Jerusalem; this violates the agreements. The Orient House serves as a quasi-foreign ministry, and that is unacceptable.

[FOCUS] What is your dilemma in Hebron?

[Netanyahu] The previous government did not withdraw from Hebron because it knew that this is a matter of life and death. Hebron is not like other cities on the West Bank. Its Jewish history and settlement can be traced back many thousands of years.

There were two large massacres in Hebron. The first one, in 1929, was carried out by Arabs among Jews, and a bloodbath recently was carried out by a Jew. This makes Hebron a dangerous city. I would like to study the issue again before we make decisions.

[FOCUS] Never before has a Likud leader said that he should study the settlement issue. Are you so very different?

[Netanyahu] I did not say I should study the issue of settlers, I said I should study our exact policy and our approach. We believe that in this country, which has been the home of Jews for 3,000 years, Jews should have the right to settle everywhere. It is inconceivable that Judaea should be "cleansed of Jews." Should it be possible for Jews to settle in Westphalia but not in Judaea? I do not want to ban the Arabs from their villages, but we cannot practice apartheid and expel Jews from places where they have lived for so many centuries.

[FOCUS] Only very few Likud politicians have visited Germany. Mr. Netanyahu, you personally linked your visit to Germany with the condition of meeting Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

[Netanyahu] That is not correct. I was in Germany at the invitation of Kohl. I was deeply impressed by the chancellor. He is a shrewd statesman, and his suggestion at that time to invite me as the opposition leader shows his ability to make correct prognoses. But joking aside, I think he is very sensitive and farsighted regarding our problems.

[FOCUS] The last government sharply criticized Europe and in particular Germany for its so-called critical dialogue with Iran. How about you?

[Netanyahu] I prefer a critical policy to a critical dialogue. What is going on in Iran is threatening all countries. It is an irrational regime, guided by an irrational ideology, and it threatens even Arab states and millions of Muslims. The threat to develop an atom bomb means not only mass destruction, but also the possibility of cutting off oil supplies on which Europe depends. Our problem is not Islam, or the Arab states. Our problem is this particularly violent regime that permits itself to break all laws to reach its goal. I think Germany can play a central role in preventing this.

Israel: Netanyahu Vows Israel Will Not Accept Terrorists' 'Game'

TA0207192496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] This evening, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said that today Israel Air Force [IAF] jets struck terrorists in Lebanon who attacked us several days ago. The prime minister said that Israel will also employ political and other means to make it clear to the terrorists' sponsors that their game will fail and Israel will not accept it.

We will not settle for periodic security with intermittent terrorism, Netanyahu said. Security must be a permanent and unchanging element in our relations with those who

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

seek peace with us. Israel seeks peaceful relations with all our neighbors, Netanyahu said.

The prime minister was speaking at the national convention of disabled IDF [Israel Defense Forces] veterans.

Our correspondent Ya'el Ben-Yehuda reports that a short while ago, Prime Minister Netanyahu visited the home of the old sage Rabbi Kaduri. The prime minister spent over 30 minutes with the rabbi. Journalists were not allowed near the house.

Israel: Disagreement With U.S. Said Delaying Lebanon Monitoring

TA0307103096 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Jul 96 pp A1, A10

[Report by Eytan Rabin and Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] While the Air Force has resumed the attacks on Lebanese targets, it has emerged that the talks on the establishment of a monitoring committee to oversee the implementation of the understandings in south Lebanon and address complaints about violations on both sides of the border have been delayed by a disagreement between the United States and Israel.

In the Peres government era, Israel demanded a series of U.S. guarantees the Americans were expected to draft in a side letter Israel was to receive simultaneously with the signing of the agreement on the establishment of the monitoring committee. By obtaining U.S. backing, Israel hopes to ensure that the monitoring committee will not act against it. The United States has not agreed to the Israeli demands so far.

Israel has requested, among other things, that the monitoring committee's decisions be made upon general consent, and not by a majority. Another demand pertains to the Israelis' freedom of movement in the security zone. A monitoring committee draft agreement states that whenever a violation grievance is investigated, each country would be able to send inspectors to its own territory only. Israeli sources maintain that "it is inconceivable that we should be unable to send our representatives to the security zone because it is considered Lebanese territory."

The disagreement over the side letter was briefly mentioned in the talks between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher last week. The matter will most likely be brought up again during Netanyahu's visit to Washington, where it will be addressed by professional levels on both sides.

The agreement on the establishment of a monitoring committee has been largely completed, and the few remaining unresolved clauses deal with controversial Syrian-Israeli issues. The talks on the agreement, which are being attended by Israeli, Syrian, Lebanese, French, and U.S. representatives, were frozen on the eve of the Israeli elections and resumed in Washington about two weeks ago. [passage omitted]

Israel: Musa Tells Levi No Intention of 'Pressuring' Netanyahu

TA0207175396 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Jul 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa spoke on the phone with his Israeli counterpart David Levi approximately 30 minutes ago in an apparent attempt to improve relations between the two countries following recent harsh exchanges.

Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports that Musa told Levi that Egypt had no intention of pressuring Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. Egypt, Musa explained, would grant Netanyahu all the time that was necessary to resume the peace process.

Israel: Netanyahu for 'Openness' With Autonomy, Against Separation

TA0307083496 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Jul 96 pp 1, 2

[Report by David Makovsky and Bill Hutman]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu distanced his government yesterday from the idea of separation, a notion which was embraced by the Labor government and which has been promoted by his own Internal Security Minister Avigdor Qahalani.

When asked pointedly at a session with the Foreign Press Association yesterday whether he wanted to continue the policy of building fences between Israel and the territories, Netanyahu replied: "We are not committed to that line of thinking. I would like to envision, in a future settlement, an open arrangement that these are not sealed entities that do not live and breathe and interact with each other. I think this is not the prescription for peace that I would like to see."

Since taking office, Netanyahu has not made public reference to a Palestinian "entity" nor defined how he envisions it. The prime minister emphasized Palestinian economic progress as the key, saying he believes this could come about best through open areas. "I think the economic component to peace could be very beneficial and stabilizing and good from a human point of view. I would like, as far as possible, to express that

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

arrangement in the policies of openness between the Palestinian autonomy and Israel." [passage omitted]

Israel: Netanyahu 'Hopes' Sharon Will Join Government

TA0307093996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has threatened to resign if Ari'el Sharon is not coopted to the cabinet by the day Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu leaves for the United States. Levi made the threat at a meeting of the factions that make up the coalition with Netanyahu. The prime minister is scheduled to leave for the United States on 10 July.

Netanyahu said in reply that he hopes Sharon will join the cabinet because that would be good for the government. He told the ministers it is inconceivable that they demand that Sharon be included in the government but refuse to give up parts of their ministries for the Infrastructures Ministry earmarked for Sharon. Netanyahu also issued a veiled reprimand of Levi when he said it was preferable to clarify such matters in an internal discussion and not in front of television cameras.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz recalls that Foreign Minister Levi yesterday accepted invitations to visit the United States, Germany, and Egypt next month.

The United Kibbutz Movement [UKM] called on the prime minister to bring Sharon into the government as soon as possible. Our correspondent Shula Schmerling reports that in a letter to the prime minister, the UKM leaders stressed that all kibbutz movements believe Sharon will assist the government in continuing to settle Eretz Yisra'el. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that the initiator of the move, Shay Hermesh, head of the Sha'ar Hanegev Regional Council, adds that a government in which most of the members are inexperienced needs a veteran experienced minister like Sharon.

Israel: Likud Sources Say Netanyahu To Leave Sharon Out of Cabinet

TA0307055596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Likud sources who recently spoke with the prime minister have said that Binyamin Netanyahu is tending to leave Knesset Member [MK] Ari'el Sharon out of the cabinet. They told our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel that had Netanyahu been eager to resolve the matter, he would have imposed the national infrastructures portfolio on the ministers. The prime minister's media adviser denies the report and says that Netanyahu hopes Sharon will join the government.

MK Sharon said last night that the establishment of the infrastructure portfolio is not his personal problem, but that the prime minister's credibility is at stake. Foreign Minister David Levi conferred with Sharon supporters who arrived from the United States and told them a situation whereby Sharon would be left out of the cabinet would be intolerable.

Meanwhile, efforts to resolve the crisis between the NRP [National Religious Party] and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] over the religious affairs portfolio continue. Education Minister Zvulun Hammer suggested to SHAS leader Arye Der'i to put off for one month the ultimatum presented by Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef over the ministry so that the two parties can discuss the matter without the pressure of time. Der'i has not responded to the proposal. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that SHAS rejected a different NRP compromise proposal: to leave the Religious Affairs Ministry in trust with the prime minister or the justice minister and if needed to appoint two deputy ministers, one from SHAS and one from NRP. Prime Minister Netanyahu is due to meet with Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef today at a luncheon hosted by Der'i for his son's bar mitzvah. Ministers Dan Meridor and Ya'aqov Ne'eman, as well as Labor MK Hayim Ramon, and several major SHAS donors from abroad have also been invited to the luncheon.

Israel: Netanyahu To Bring Altered Hebron Redeployment Plan to U.S.

TA0307042696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A decision by Israel on the redeployment in Hebron is to be taken by the end of the week. On Friday [5 July], after the cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is planning to hold further consultations on both the Hebron and Orient House issues, and by then, the decision is due on the Hebron redeployment. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says the expectation is that there will be a redeployment though not in the exact format decided upon by the previous government. The prime minister intends to present the decision to U.S. President Bill Clinton in their meeting next week.

Israel: Netanyahu Says Budget Cuts Mainly in Defense, Welfare

TA0207170296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has said that the budget cuts will be difficult and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

painful. He said that most of the cuts will be made in the fields of defense and welfare spending. The prime minister expressed the hope that the weaker social classes would not be hurt.

Our correspondent Steve Linde reports that Mr. Netanyahu was speaking at a meeting with the association of foreign correspondents in Israel.

Israel: Netanyahu To Meet 'Senior' Economic Leaders in Washington

TA0207174296 (Internet) GLOBES in English 2 July 96

[Report from Washington by Ran Dagoni]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will meet senior American economic leaders during his visit to Washington next week, sources in the US capital told GLOBES.

According to the sources, meetings are scheduled with the Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin, the President of the World Bank and the President of the International Monetary Fund. Other meetings are also likely. A source closely connected with Netanyahu's schedule said yesterday: These meetings will not be work meetings. This is Netanyahu's first visit to Washington as prime minister, and he wants to learn and see what has changed since the time he worked at the Israeli embassy in the capital.

Other sources estimate that Netanyahu will continue in the line of his predecessors and push economic bodies, particularly international economic bodies, to speed up financial support to the Palestinian Authority for projects even if this might anger some of those in the Likud. According to these sources Netanyahu will attempt to win credit with the Americans and convince them that the Likud government will not put up obstacles to peace.

Israel: Histadrut Vows To Fight Proposed Budget Cuts

TA0207150696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Histadrut Trade Union Federation declared that it will fight the proposed budget cuts, which will have a harmful effect on salaried employees and the weaker social strata. The Histadrut will also demand that the government honor all signed wage agreements, including those on pensions.

Histadrut Chairman 'Amir Peretz will also ask the finance minister to specify which public services will be affected by the budget cuts. Peretz expressed the fear that there will be mass layoffs in the public sector and government agencies, as well as a continuing economic slowdown.

Meretz Chairman Yosi Sarid said that the budget cuts would have a very negative effect on welfare and health services. Sarid said that even if the government promised one thousand times that the weaker classes would not be affected, one should not believe them.

Israel: Further on Cabinet's Budget Cut Decision, Economic Goals

TA0307084496 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Jul 96 pp 1, 2

[Report by David Harris, David Makovsky, and Michal Yudelman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The cabinet yesterday agreed on a NIS [new Israeli shekels] 4.9 billion cut to next year's budget and set a target of lowering the balance of payments deficit by 2.8 percent of the gross domestic product.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu pledged that Israel will embark on a "sweeping liberalization policy," which will include privatization and deregulation alongside the necessary budget-cutting.

During yesterday's five-and-a-half-hour cabinet meeting, 12 ministers voted in favor of the proposals brought by the prime minister and Finance Minister Dan Meridor.

Five others, led by Yitzhaq Mordekhay (Likud), together with party colleagues David Levi and Moshe Qatzav, and the NRP's [National Religious Party] Zvulun Hammer and Yitzhaq Levi, voted for a compromise budget. This would lead to a 3.5 percent balance of payments deficit in 1997, with further reductions of 0.5 percent a year until the end of the century.

The Defense and Education Ministries, under Mordekhay and Hammer respectively, are among those which will be hardest hit when the final budget is set.

While Meridor said he understands each minister must represent his best interest, he compared the cabinet to a family. "First you see how much money you have, then you ask the child what he wants. You don't ask all the children what they want first and then clarify where the money's coming from."

The cabinet is expected to vote on ministry allocations and set the final details of the budget before Netanyahu leaves for the United States next Monday. Both Meridor (who flies out on Wednesday) and Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel will accompany him, and it

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

is thought the three are keen to show a finalized budget plan to US President Bill Clinton.

Meridor said the cuts will not lead to a decrease in the standard of living next year, and pledged again to do his utmost to ensure the poor and weak are not affected by the measures. Having received cabinet approval for the macro-economic picture, Meridor reiterated that he envisages no tax increases as a result.

Netanyahu, speaking yesterday afternoon to the Foreign Press Association at the Prime Minister's Office, suggested that the brunt of budget cuts could come from the "less significant" aspects of defense and social welfare. A rumored prime target for defense cuts includes delaying an expected raise for career officers.

He declared a "sweeping liberalization policy for the Israeli economy. Israel has had incremental structural reforms since 1986 ... We intend to do a lot more in a compressed time. It is privatization and liberalization and deregulation, especially the deregulation program, that will bring the economic growth that I envision," he said.

Before his election, Netanyahu pledged to privatize 50 of the 160 government-owned companies over the next four years.

To drive home his point about how so little has been done on the topic of government deregulation, he said that, so far, no Hebrew term has been found to describe the concept.

Meanwhile, economic officials say the government deficit is much higher than reported, running at 10 percent of the gross national product or an estimated $8 billion.

The detailed proposals for 1997 include: setting the domestic deficit without credit dispensation at 2 percent of GDP; setting the total deficit without credit dispensation at 2.8 percent of GDP; setting government revenue at NIS 137.3 billion; expenditure not to exceed NIS 146.6 billion. The cabinet also agreed a law should be passed paving the way for reducing the deficit between 1997 and 2001, with the following yearly figures: the 1997 deficit must not exceed 2.8 percent of GDP; in 1998, the target will be 2.4 percent; in 1999, the maximum rate will be set at 2 percent; 1.75 percent will be the maximum in the year 2000; by 2001 the balance of payments deficit must be no more than 1.5 percent of GDP. While supporting the Finance Ministry proposals, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky stressed the importance of research and development, infrastructure, and encouraging export growth. During the discussion, Frenkel called on ministers to make cuts upwards of NIS 6b. in 1996 and 1997. He also said the government must reduce inflation, which would allow for continuing liberalization, an end to the concern over foreign exchange rates, and would protect the weak. The only way to buck the trend of increasing deficits and higher inflation is to act immediately by cutting public expenditure, he said.

Before voting on the measures, Netanyahu told the ministers, "If we don't make the decision today, we won't make the decision ... We can't close the rucksack if everyone tries to put in extra things."

The need for urgent action was also stressed by Finance Ministry Director General David Brodet. The longer the cuts are put off, the more severe they will have to be, he warned. As a result of the program's implementation, Brodet claimed public expenditure will be reduced from 48% of the gross national product this year to 45 percent in 1997.

Israel's stock indexes rose after the meeting amid investors' hopes the central bank would cut interest rates. This was coupled with a strengthening in the shekel to 3.201 to the dollar, up from 3.203 yesterday.

In reaction to the cuts, Meretz leader MK [Knesset Member] Yosi Sarid said the budget slash will severely reduce welfare and health services. The government can swear a thousand times that it will not hurt the weaker classes and lower income earners, but this would be a lie, he said.

Israel: Histadrut Head To Discuss Turkish Phantom Deal With Meridor

TA0207174796 (Internet) GLOBES in English 2 July 96

[Report by Michael Raveh and Dror Marom]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Histadrut Chairman 'Amir Peretz will raise the issue of transfer of bank guarantees for the upgrade of Turkish Air Force Phantoms by Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) in his meeting tomorrow with Minister of Finance Dan Meridor. Peretz will demand immediate action on Meridor's part, so that the project is not canceled.

After years of talks, IAI won a Turkish Ministry of Defense tender for the upgrade project on the Air Force's Phantom airplanes.

Initiation of practical stages of the project was delayed due to financing difficulties on the part of the Turkey, and the Israeli government was asked to transfer financing of $240 million.

The banks will be exposed at a volume of $40 million of the government financing. Defense sources attribute the delay in transfer of the financing by the banks to IAI to expression of their displeasure at the delay in settling the company's debts to the banks.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Jordan: King Said To Accept 'Principle' of Visit to Damascus

NC0307132396 Paris AFP in English 1317 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman, July 3 (AFP)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has invited Jordan's King Husayn to visit Damascus in further moves to heal the two-year lingering rift between the countries, Jordanian officials said Wednesday [3 July].

The invitation was made "during their recent phone call," a senior Jordanian official said, asking to remain anonymous.

No date for the visit has yet been fixed but the king has "accepted the principle of this visit." [passage omitted]

Jordan: Al-Kabariti Says 'Arafat To Arrive in Amman 6 Jul

JN0307073496 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Jul 96 pp 1, 20

[Report by Nabil al-Ghazzawi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman — [passage omitted] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said that Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestinian National Authority, will arrive in Amman on Saturday, 6 July. The prime minister added that 'Arafat will meet with His Majesty King Husayn to discuss a number of current regional issues and developments related to the process of realizing just, comprehensive, and permanent peace in the region, particularly on the Palestinian-Israeli track, and means to advance Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said the talks between President Yasir 'Arafat and His Majesty King Husayn will center on bolstering bilateral cooperation between the two fraternal sides in various fields, as well as regional and international issues.

AL-DUSTUR learned that President Yasir 'Arafat and Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti will hold a meeting which will be attended by a number of officials from both sides to review a number of bilateral and political affairs, as well as other matters of mutual concern. [passage omitted]

Jordan: Prime Minister, PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas Discuss Ties, Situation

JN0207174896 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti received at his office today Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the PLO Negotiations Department. They reviewed Jordanian-Palestinian relations, as well as spheres of bilateral cooperation in various areas. They also discussed several Arab and regional issues of common interest, developments in the peace process, and the results of the Arab summit conference in Cairo.

The prime minister stressed the special Jordanian-Palestinian relations, as well as the need to exert every effort to further promote them for the benefit of both sides. He reaffirmed that Jordan supports the Palestinian brothers regarding the final-status negotiations.

In a statement to the press following the meeting, 'Abbas said that he discussed with the prime minister the growing brotherly Jordanian-Palestinian relations as part of efforts to enhance inter-Arab ties and back the peace process.

'Abbas added that he reviewed with the prime minister the positive results of the Arab summit in Cairo, asserting that Jordan made a great contribution to its success. He said that talks also tackled ways to implement the summit's resolutions and to organize the meetings of the upcoming summit, which we hope will not be too far away.

Regarding a possible meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and the Israeli prime minister, 'Abbas said he hoped such a meeting would be held soon, perhaps after the Israeli prime minister's visit to the United States. He then referred to the meetings held between himself and Netanyahu's envoys, who conveyed a message to President 'Arafat from Netanyahu.

'Abbas said also that he hoped the Israeli Government would meet its obligations by implementing its accords with the Palestinian National Authority, including redeployment in the city of Hebron.

Jordan: Israeli Envoy Says Israel Violating Peace Agreement With Jordan

JN0207173796 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Jul 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli Ambassador to Jordan Shim'on Shamir said his country is violating the peace agreement with Jordan by obstructing the issuance of entry visas for Jordanians.

In statements to the Israeli Army radio [IDF Radio], Shamir said: According to the peace agreement, Israel must grant visas to applicants within five days.

He stressed that this issue is becoming a very annoying problem in relations between Jordan and Israel.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

He said the Jordanians are complaining about the difficulty of obtaining visas to enter Israel despite the fact that 150,000 Israelis visited Jordan last year.

Jordan: Minister on Plans To Raise Bread Price, Increase Subsidy

JN0207203496 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 2 Jul 96

[Announcer-read report from the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minister of Supply Munir Subar said the government plans to raise the price of bread, but would simultaneously increase the subsidy for this basic food item. Subar, speaking on Jordan TV's morning program "Yawm Jadid" [New Day], rejected gradual increase of bread prices, saying citizens would eventually pay the price. He said the price of bread should have been raised 12 years ago.

Subar explained that in the past, profit from government subsidies on rice and sugar came out even with the losses made on flour, but that the situation was different now. He noted that the total value of the government subsidies for basic food items is currently estimated at 150 to 160 million dinars.

He said, however, that the government was seeking to direct subsidies for bread for those who really deserved them. The Consumer Protection Society criticized the move during a meeting called today to discuss the price hike issue.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Lebanon: Iranian Envoy Denies Refusing Visas

NC0207165596 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Iranian Ambassador in Beirut Homayun 'Alizadeh has denied that the Iranian consulate in Lebanon is refusing to grant entry visas to Lebanese nationals travelling to Iran.

Following his meeting with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz today, the ambassador pointed out that there are some obstacles hindering Iranian tourists and merchants who want to travel to Lebanon. He stressed the importance of consolidating ties between Iran and Lebanon.

'Alizadeh remarked that Minister Buwayz was positive and that he affirmed that he would adopt a number of decisions to eliminate any obstacles hindering the Iranians obtaining entry visas to Lebanon.

AFP had earlier cited an authorized Lebanese source as saying that the Lebanese Embassy in Iran stopped granting entry visas to Iranians travelling to Lebanon two weeks ago.

Moreover, the Iranian ambassador said that Israel procrastinates in implementing the April Understanding and that the United States is going along with it in this connection.

Lebanon: Dissident Fatah Group Statement Details Missile Attack

JN0207163296 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1330 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A correspondent of al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio, the Palestinian Arab radio on the path of the liberation of land and man, in Beirut said a short while ago that he received a statement by a military spokesman for the [dissident] Fatah Movement-the General Command of al-'Asifah Forces. The statement says: One of our administrative positions in al-Biqa' came under a Zionist enemy missile attack at around 1030 today, Tuesday, 2 July 1996.

The enemy missile attack, in which splinter and time bombs were used, was carried out in three waves and lasted for half an hour. The bombardment caused no human losses, while the position suffered slight material damage.

[Signed] Military spokesman for the Fatah Movement, the General Command of al-'Asifah Forces

[Dated] 2 July 1996

Lebanon: Buwayz 'Not Optimistic' About Arab Economic Unity

MM0207151896 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Jul 96 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Lebanese Foreign Minister Considers 'Normalization' a Present Which Cannot Be Given to Israel Before It Withdraws"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — The "Conference on Lebanese-European Relations" opened in Beirut yesterday with the participation of economic specialists and advisers from Lebanon, the EU, and other states.

The lectures and debates in the conference revolved around "Mediterranean agreements and their effects on Lebanon from the Lebanese and European points of view, and the economic and social effects of the Lebanese-European partnership."

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz delivered a speech to open the conference proceedings. He stressed that Lebanon continues to refuse to participate in the multilateral negotiations arising from the Madrid conference because these negotiations offer normalization with the Arabs as a present to Israel. He added that "such a price cannot be paid except after Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories."

The minister said that "the multilaterals cannot be conducted in isolation from a political agreement." He wondered: "How can we overtake the stumbling political negotiator and engage in multilaterals at a time when the Israelis are attacking the south [of Lebanon] and western al-Biqa' daily and when we still do not know the features of the proposed peace?"

Buwayz stressed that "Israel's current policy proves the soundness of Lebanon's stand, namely its refusal to be dragged into the multilaterals." He warned Europe of the danger of Israel's possession of nuclear stations and warheads, which constitute a volcano; "if this volcano erupts in the region, it will affect Europe, which is adjacent to the Middle East."

He stressed that the key to confronting Israel lies in the Arabs' unity, at least economically, and the establishment of a common Arab market to enable them to hold a dialogue with others from a strong position. While calling on the Arabs to coordinate and unite, he said he is "not optimistic about Arab economic

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

unity in the Middle East in the foreseeable future." He said: "Current Arab contradictions are preventing the establishment of a common market." He pointed out that "there is an agreement among the Arabs in this connection but it has not been implemented."

Buwayz stressed "the need to conclude agreements with Europe at the end of the year covering six aspects: environment, immigration, security, nuclear, political, and cultural and economic." He said that "we cannot remain in the present situation; there is a need for dialogue with Europe, and Lebanon must join GATT and free exchange with Europe."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Syria: New Turkish Government Urged To Promote 'Historic Ties'

JN0207171896 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1141 GMT 2 Jul 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Following the formation of the new Turkish Government under Necmettin Erbakan, observers saw a ray of hope for Turkey's return to its Islamic environment and to the good neighborly relations with the Arab and Islamic states, particularly Syria.

It is known that previous Turkish governments have, over the past years, escalated their hostility toward Syria without any justification. They repeatedly threatened to cut off the Euphrates River water, massed troops on the borders with Syria, and crowned all this by signing a serious agreement with Israel, which allows the latter to use Turkish air bases, conduct joint maneuvers, and carry out military operations if necessary. This created fears, not only in Syria, but in the entire Arab homeland.

In its statements, the Arab League has repeatedly denounced the aggressive Turkish policy, and called on the Ankara governments to respect the neighborly and Islamic relations, and not to depart from their natural environment; namely, the Islamic world. Islamic Welfare Party Leader Necmettin Erbakan was one of the first people to denounce the military agreement with Israel because of the danger it poses to Islamic security and the Turkish national security itself. In fact, Erbakan stated clearly that there is no problem at all with Syria.

During all these fabricated crises, Syria maintained self-control and refused to be dragged into the provocative policy pursued by the previous Turkish governments. Syria has always called for dialogue and understanding, whether regarding the water issue, or Ankara's tendentious accusations. This is based on the historic and Islamic ties and good neighborly relations. In fact, Syria displayed all forms of cooperation with the previous Turkish governments and received more than one Turkish official to see for himself the facts of Syria's policy. Damascus does not interfere in other states' affairs. It is impossible for it to escalate the internal crises in Turkey. These crises are deep-rooted and necessitate that the Turkish leaders display broad understanding and far-sightedness in order to resolve them internally through dialogue and understanding.

It is not long since the foreign ministers of Syria, Iran, and Turkey used to hold joint meetings to discuss the latest developments and find logical solutions to them. Syria has never been and will never be a factor in Turkey's internal crises, for these are Turkish affairs. Syria has repeatedly cooperated with the Turkish authorities to dispel any fears. However, the recent Turkish escalation against Syria was basically launched by external sides, particularly Israel, which never stopped its attempts to drive a wedge among the Arab and Islamic worlds and to escalate the inter-Arab and the Arab-Islamic conflicts within the framework of the divide-and-rule policy.

It is neither reasonable nor acceptable for Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu to speak in the name of Turkey to level threats against Syria. Is it reasonable that Turkey, the Islamic state, sides with Israel against its Arab and Islamic environment at a time when the Israeli prime minister openly states that he will not return Jerusalem, the qibla of all Muslims; will not withdraw from a single inch of the occupied Arab territories; and will not recognize any of the Palestinian people's rights? Is it reasonable that all Arabs and Muslims stand as one rank against Israel's expansionist ambitions and aggressive schemes, while Turkey is the only Islamic state which opens its borders, airports, and military bases for the Israeli forces? Syria and all Arabs are looking for a change in the Turkish stand toward openness to the natural environment, toward promoting relations with the Arab and Islamic world, and toward putting an end to the military cooperation with Israel. This cooperation fundamentally harms Turkey's reputation and threatens its independence and security.

The Arab League, and later the Arab summit in Cairo, made more than one appeal to Turkish officials to be alert to the dangers of this agreement, and to safeguard good neighborliness and the traditional relations between the Arabs and Turkey. However, the fabrication of conflicts and the escalation of tension will ultimately not serve Syria or Turkey, the Turkish-Arab relations, or the Turkish role in the region which should act as a factor of relaxation and support for the just issues of the Arabs and Muslims, particularly Jerusalem, Palestine, and the occupied Arab territories. Syria will receive any positive initiative by the Turkish Government with positive stands based on the interests of the two countries and their peoples, in the hope of promoting the existing historic ties between the two countries and their peoples.

Syria: Paper Criticizes Israeli 'Campaign' Against Egypt

JN0207142596 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0745 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 2 Jul (SANA) — The newspaper AL-BA'TH warns against the campaign of falsehoods against Egypt for supplying its army with defensive weapons. The paper says that the campaign

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

is led by Israel and the pro-Israel Zionist organizations inside and outside the United States.

In a news analysis today, the paper says: Egypt supplied its army with defensive weapons which every army in the world is entitled to acquire. However, Israel, which is armed with atomic and chemical weapons and laser cannons, wants the Arabs to be powerless and their borders defenseless in the face of the Israeli ambitions.

It adds: Israel's friends in the United States demand depriving Egypt of the U.S. aid unless its weapons are subjected to inspection and monitoring and the Egyptian army discards its weapons. It asserts that through its deception campaign, Israel demands that the world present lists of the weapons which the Arab countries purchase or plan to purchase.

The newspaper says: The current campaign against Egypt, which took a serious dimension, coincides with other campaigns against Syria and Libya. Such campaigns will continue to be staged against any Arab country that seeks to modernize its army's defensive weapons.

The paper regrets the failure of the countries that are well aware of Israel's weapons and ambitions to dominate Arab land, people, and destiny to at least blame Israel for its defiance of the specialized international organizations, especially since Israel has been the greatest defier of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Concluding its analysis, the newspaper calls on those who are biased against Egypt in the United States to realize that Israel constitutes the greatest danger and that the radiation emitted from the Israeli Dimona reactor threatens the region with pollution.

Syria: Netanyahu Criticized for Placing 'Preconditions' on Peace

JN0207180396 Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 1 Jul 96 p 5

[Editorial by M. Agha: "Netanyahu's Preconditions"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As the new Israeli government persists in its hardline policy and sets preconditions for continuing peace talks the industrialized states and Russia have called the parties concerned with the peace process for renewed negotiations and said land for peace remained the basis for a middle East settlement.

Group 7 saw that the security issue which was on Netanyahu's election campaign still remains the first priority in his government's policy, but the leaders of the big industrialized countries stressed just, comprehensive equitable and lasting peace remains the only guarantee for security for all countries in the region.

It is clear that this message is addressed to Israel. Syria, as is well-known, is committed to the bases of Madrid conference and UN Security Council resolutions.

Syria has recently taken part in the Cairo Arab summit and exerted great efforts for bringing about a unanimous pan-Arab approval of the bases of the future Arab strategy towards the peace process.

Peace on the basis of the international legitimacy resolutions is Arabs' strategic choice, as the final statement said. But, peace according to Israeli government means ensuring "security" for Israel at the expense of Arab territories.

Binyamin Netanyahu wants Arabs to make peace while their lands are under the Israeli occupation. He wants to keep the Golan, South Lebanon, the West Bank and Jerusalem to be under his army's control with the aim of ensuring "security" for settlements which his government plans to beef up in the near future.

According to Netanyahu, settlements are more important than peace and stability in the whole region. His government has already confirmed rejection of the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Netanyahu's remarks on peace talks with no preconditions means that he places preconditions, that is to say he rejects the Madrid bases on which the whole peace process depended when the peace talks started in October 1991.

The new government of Israel will find no other way but to commit itself to the terms of reference agreed at the Madrid conference.

If it really wants peace, it should stress its adherence to UN Resolutions 242, 338 and 425 providing for complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, from Golan to the 4 June 1967 lines, From South Lebanon and Western al-Biqa', and from the West Bank including Jerusalem.

Syria: Papers on 'Success' of Mediation Between Bahrain, Iran

JN0307075096 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 3 Jul 96

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] TISHRIN today comments on the success of Syria's initiative in removing the misunderstanding between the sisterly State of Bahrain and the friendly Islamic Republic of Iran. TISHRIN says: President al-Asad's sincere efforts had a major role in

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

returning things to normal. One of the elements that contributed to the success of the fraternal initiative is the fact that both Bahrain and Iran showed goodwill. In addition, the initiative came from inside the region. Syria is famous for its unrelenting efforts to remove all obstacles to inter-Arab and Arab-Islamic solidarity.

TISHRIN says the success of the Syrian initiative is conclusive evidence that foreign intervention always complicates the situation and makes it more explosive. Developments have shown that fraternal Arab initiatives are safer and have better chances for success. The important thing is that there should be goodwill.

The newspaper adds that Damascus was the first to call for the convening of the Cairo summit and to work to make it succeed. The Cairo summit laid the foundations for Arab solidarity. There should also be Islamic solidarity on the same level. Inter-Arab divisions and Arab-Islamic differences have produced nothing but setbacks. These differences created large gaps through which enemies and coveters infiltrated to deal a blow to Arab and Islamic people.

TISHRIN asserts that the participation of all Arab parties in the Cairo summit stemmed from a conviction that what is happening does not promote the nation's interests. The Arabs' sincere intentions to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region are reciprocated by intransigence and rejection of the simplest requirements of peace, without Israel coming under any real pressure. It is no coincidence that Iran welcomed the summit and viewed its outcome as positive. The factors that unite the Arabs must necessarily unite the Muslims. The threats to the Arabs and Muslims are the same. The new Israeli Government made it public that it will never relinquish Jerusalem, which is the direction of prayer of all Muslims; that it will not return the Golan, the West Bank, and southern Lebanon; and that it does not set any store by the principles of the peace process. This requires that all sincere people—Arabs and Muslims—close ranks and mobilize resources.

TISHRIN concludes: Syria cares a lot about the unity of Arabs and Muslims. The success of its initiative in removing the misunderstanding between Tehran and Manama reflects the confidence of all parties in its honest and fraternal efforts. Syria hopes that the new Turkish Government, led by Necmettin Erbakan, will return Turkey to its natural Islamic environment. The Arabs and Muslims are supposed to be united to defend their common interests. The real threat to these interests is Israel.

In a commentary entitled "Syria's Role and Fruits of Summit," AL-THAWRAH says the response of the Bahraini and Iranian sides to Syria's fraternal mediation efforts stems from confidence in the Syrian role. Syria's success in clearing the air and settling Arab-Iranian differences is an extension of the great pan-Arab success of leader al-Asad in clearing the Arab atmosphere and cooperating with Arab brothers to create a new climate of solidarity. This climate was clear in the expanded Arab summit, which, by all standards, was a qualitative shift in joint Arab action, reunited the Arabs, and charted a comprehensive strategy to face the Israeli challenges imposed on all levels.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: Israel is the only party that stands to gain from differences between the Arabs and Iran or between Turkey and the Arabs. This is because Israel seeks to control the entire region and prevent its peoples from achieving their rights and preserving their dignity. Therefore, clearing the air between the Arabs and their neighbors and establishing closer cooperation between them will curb Israeli threats, which began to loom on the horizon, given the extremist Israeli right's challenge to the international community and international legitimacy. The Israeli right also rejects the principles of a just and comprehensive peace and avoids its requirements, thus creating great threats to the region.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Kabul Urges UN To Force Pakistan To Close Taleban Centers

LD0107183096 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In a message addressed to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has asked the United Nations to use all available means to exert pressure on the Taleban terrorist group.

The letter says that the dialogue for peace and understanding launched by the initiative of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA] is going ahead successfully. Along this direction, Brother Hekmatyar gave a positive reply to the invitation for peace. Trusting in the integrity of the ISA, he finally came to Kabul and was sworn in as the interim prime minister of the ISA on 26 June. Some other factions have also indicated willingness to join the peace axis and thus to broaden the dimension of peace.

Under the circumstances where our persecuted people, after suffering from fighting for many years, pinned their hopes on the end of fighting, a warmongering group called Taleban fired hundreds of rockets on Kabul city on the day when the new prime minister was taking his oath, and stained with blood hundreds of people in this city. The Foreign Ministry's letter asks the United Nations, as an international forum, to force the neighboring country of Pakistan to close down in its territory the propaganda and political centers of the Taleban and not to permit them to operate. Preventing the Taleban group from committing such dreadful crimes can thus ease the suffering of the Afghan people, in particular the defenseless people of Kabul city.

Afghanistan: Paper Sees 'Cool Relations' Between Taleban, Pakistan

LD0107184196 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan's assistance to the Taleban group has been stopped. In its recent issue, the SHAHADAT, Hezb-e Eslami's [Islamic Party] publication organ, writes:

Following a series of mistakes and continuing political (?defeats) of the Taleban group, Pakistan suspended all its assistance to the Taleban group two weeks ago. Quoting a reliable and responsible source from Pakistan, the newspaper adds: Continuing objections and serious reaction by the people to what is called Pakistani intervention in the areas under the control of Taleban is also a factor for the cool relations between Pakistan and the Taleban group.

The source adds that the issue of Russian POW's who are being held by the Taleban group has also disrupted relations between the Taleban and Pakistan.

Afghanistan: Pakistan Opposition Party Pledges Support for Government

LD2906213496 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Pakistan Muslim League Party has assured the new Islamic Government of Afghanistan of every assistance.

A Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reported that two high-ranking representatives of the Muslim League Party, Akram Laki and Haji Jawid [phon], who had come to Kabul to take part in the swearing-in ceremony, met Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and esteemed Brother Hekmatyar separately and conveyed a message from Nawaz Sharif, leader of the opposition Muslim League Party of Pakistan.

The message said: I express support for the new government of Afghanistan. The people of Pakistan are very happy at the unity of Hezb and Jamiat and they share this happiness with the Afghan people. The Muslim League has always assisted the people of Afghanistan and this assistance will continue.

Nawaz Sharif asked all Afghan leaders to end their differences in the interests of the Afghan nation.

The Muslim League representatives said that unity between the Hezb and Jamiat was a major step for security and peace. Mr Hekmatyar told them that he was grateful for Pakistan's assistance during the jihad period.

Afghanistan: Taleban Rocket Hits Bus, 8 Killed

LD0207170896 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Today the Taleban group fired a number of rockets on Kabul city, injuring three citizens.

Bakhtar reported that this morning a number of rockets landed on the city. One rocket hit a house located in Karta-e Se, injuring three people. Several other rockets landed on the city but no report is yet available on losses.

A bus travelling from Kabul to Maydan Shahr was hit yesterday evening in Chowk-e Arghandi by a Taleban rocket. As a result of this incident, eight passengers were killed. Among the victims is the body of a woman aged around 35; she has not yet been identified. Anyone who

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

can identify the body please contact the fifth security ward or 507 regiment and inform her family.

Afghanistan: Hekmatyar Holds Talks Over Dinner With Mas'ud

LD0207175696 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At midday today, Brother Hekmatyar, prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA], took part in a luncheon reception hosted in his honor by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, member of the ISA's High Council.

The prime minister's press office reports that the reception was attended by a number of high-ranking government officials and high-ranking officials of the Hezb-e Eslami of Afghanistan.

At the reception, which lasted for four hours, esteemed Brother Hekmatyar and esteemed Ahamd Shah Mas'ud spoke in detail about the country's current problems and how to improve the situation.

The report adds that the discussions at the reception took place in a fraternal atmosphere.

Afghanistan: Leaders Express Support for Continued Inter-Party Dialogue

LD2906194396 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] During a meeting with esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA], esteemed Mohammad Yunos Khales, esteemed Mowlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi and esteemed Pir Sayd Ahmad Gaylani expressed support for the continuation of inter-Afghan talks. The meeting decided to convene a wider gathering of Afghan leaders in the near future.

The president's press office reported that the esteemed president, accompanied by a number of officials and high-ranking government commanders, went to Jalalabad (by road) to exchange views with some of the jehadi formation leaders and members of the jehadi council of Nangarhar Province, about the strengthening of the peace process. [passage omitted]

While leading Friday prayers, the esteemed president spoke during the sermon about the peace process and said: The peace which prevails in Nangarhar Province is a great gift, for the maintenance of which the brave people of this province must cooperate fully. [words indistinct]

The esteemed president also had separate meetings with esteemed Haji Abdol Qadir, governor and chairman of Nangarhar's jehadi council, members of the council and other Nangarhar political and public figures. Talks were held on finding a peaceful solution to the problem and strengthening inter-Afghan talks as the most satisfactory way of achieving peace and security in the country.

While meeting the leaders of the jehadi formations in Nangarhar, the esteemed president said: After a series of conspiracies against the unity and solidarity of Afghans, by the grace of God Afghan society's influential forces managed to sit down and reach an agreement. [Words indistinct]

According to another report, the esteemed president visited the installations at Naghlo power station. Relevant officials explained the work of the power station to the president. They said that Naghlo power station was ready to become operational. With the extension of power lines, electric power will reach Kabul.

Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani returned to Kabul around 1100 this morning.

Afghanistan: Official—U.S. After Tarnishing Islamic Movements

LD0307100896 Tehran IRNA in English 0618 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 3, IRNA — Head of Afghanistan's Islamic Unity Party headquarters in Iran Mohammad Muhaqeq stressed that the U.S. and its allies are the number one enemies of freedom movements all over the world and are sparing no efforts to tarnish Islamic governments.

In an interview with the morning daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' Wednesday, he noted that any interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan by Western countries, particularly the U.S., would have adverse effects on the interests of the Afghan Muslims.

On the future of the cooperation forged between President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar, Muhaqeq said, the recent agreement between Rabbani and Hekmatyar opens a new horizon in the restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan. It will actually lead to further negotiations with other parties which are involved in the multi-party Afghan disputes.

He hailed the Islamic Republic of Iran for its humanitarian aid to the Afghan people, saying the Iranian officials have taken key measures for restoring peace in his war-torn country.

Commenting on future plans for the reconstruction of Afghanistan, Muhaqeq underlined that reconstruction presupposes an end to the war, the establishment of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

an Islamic government and support by Afghanistan's neighbors.

He concluded by calling on regional countries, particularly Iran and Pakistan to contribute in the search for a practical policy that would effectively settle the problems that have plagued Afghanistan for years.

Afghanistan: Hekmatyar Urges Opening of Highways

LD0107195996 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On 30 June Golboddin Hekmatyar, the new prime minister of Afghanistan and leader of the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party], said that he would not spare any effort for a nationwide restoration of peace and stability.

According to an IRNAW [Iranian News Agency] report, the prime minister of Afghanistan said during an interview that the country's government had chosen the path of peace and hoped that, by setting up a genuine Islamic system, it would be able to enforce Shari'ah rules and to restore general security.

Regarding the issue as to whether by the unity of all groups and factions the territorial integrity of Afghanistan would be safeguarded and the conspiracy for the country's disintegration foiled, Hekmatyar said: There is no reason whatsoever for the closure of highways to Kabul. Highways must be opened in order to improve the country's economy and the people's living conditions.

Hekmatyar expressed the hope that by opening of the Salang highway linking Kabul with the countries of Central Asia, the economic situation would be improved and would enable him to go to Mazar-e Sharif by land for talks with General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, leader of the National Islamic Movement. [passage omitted]

India

India: Gujral Hopeful of Better Bilateral Ties to U.S.

BK0207135696 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 2 Jul 96 p 9

[Report by Nirmala George]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and the United States may continue to argue about the nuclear issue, but New Delhi believes there is more to Indo-US relations than the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

The differences of perception of the two countries over nuclear issues and global disarmament that surfaced at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, should not overshadow other areas of bilateral cooperation, External Affairs Minister I.K. Gujral told a group of journalists here.

India is keen to have "very friendly relations with the US", but "naturally no relationship can be at the cost of India's national interest," he said referring to the diametrically opposite views that the two countries hold over global disarmament and India's nuclear programme.

"I do hope the Americans will appreciate this," Gujral said.

Excluding the CTBT, however, there are vast areas of cooperation between the two countries on the trade and cultural front. "It's not a one point relationship. No two nations can ever have a one point relationship", he said.

Though India and the US do not see eye-to-eye on one issue, and this is inevitable in any relationship between any two large nations, yet the wider dimensions of the relationship, especially economic and trade ties were flourishing and were on track.

An occasion for Gujral to meet his American counterpart, Secretary of State Warren Christopher, may arise sooner than expected at the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) meeting scheduled to be held in Jakarta in the third week of July. Gujral will be participating in the ministerial level consultations where Christoper is also expected to be present and a meeting between the two cannot be ruled out.

Exuding confidence that India could weather any kind of opposition on the CTBT, Gujral said on any issue where the nation's interests were involved, it is imperative that India went by "our perception of our security interest".

"We are not seeking populism by staking our national interest," he asserted, adding that the first commitment of any government was to safeguard the country's interests and there could be no compromise on this vital issue. Whatever the reaction to this, "we will face it", he said.

India: Minister on Efforts To Normalize Relations With Pakistan

BK0307044796 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, is hopeful that the stalled bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan will resume at an early date. Expressing his hope during a courtesy call by the Pakistan high commissioner, Mr. Riaz Khokhar, Mr. Gujral conveyed India's desire to establish a relationship of friendship and cooperation with Pakistan.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The Indo-Pak dialogue has remained suspended since the foreign secretaries of the two countries last met in Islamabad in 1994. An External Affairs Ministry press release said Mr. Gujral emphasized India's commitment to enhancing economic, cultural, and social contacts between the two countries at both the governmental and the people-to-people level.

The meeting took place after Mr. Khokhar made a request for a courtesy call on Mr. Gujral. Reciprocating the warm sentiments expressed by Mr. Gujral, Mr. Khokhar conveyed to the minister that Islamabad was engaged in preparing a response to the prime minister, Mr. H.D. Deve Gowda's, letter sent to the Pakistan premier, Ms. Benazir Bhutto. In his letter sent on 9th June, Mr. Gowda made an offer for resumption of bilateral talks.

As part of India's efforts to normalize relations with Pakistan, its high commission in Islamabad in a unilateral decision has already decided to relax the rules governing issuance of visas to enable larger numbers of Pakistani nationals to visit this country.

India: Gujral—J&K Elections, Talks With Pakistan Not Related

BK0207155196 Delhi THE ASIAN AGE in English 2 Jul 96 pp 1, 4

[Report by Palash Kumar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] External Affairs Minister I.K. Gujral on Monday said that elections in Jammu and Kashmir [J&K] cannot be linked to bilateral talks between India and Pakistan.

Speaking to a select group of reporters here, Mr Gujral said, "Elections in Jammu and Kashmir will be held. It is India's internal matter and not linked to bilateral talks between India and Pakistan."

Mr Gujral was replying to a question on media reports that Pakistan may withdraw its offer for talks if India goes ahead with Assembly elections in the troubled state.

Mr Gujral said there has been no official communication from Pakistan in response to Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's letter to Ms Benazir Bhutto in which he had offered the resumption of foreign secretary level talks between the two countries.

"We have understood that the official communication will be come after the current session of Pakistani Parliament ends," Mr Gujral said.

The minister said he is looking forward to a new era in India- Pakistan relations. "We will be quite liberal in our approach," Mr Gujral said, adding that on her own India has decided to increase the visa allocation to Indians wishing to visit Pakistan by over 60 per cent.

On the recently adjourned negotiations on the comprehensive test ban treaty, Mr Gujral firmly reiterated India's decision was correct in light of its security interest.

Asked whether India's stand would lead to being isolated by the international community or the imposition of sanctions by the United States, Mr Gujral said: "One doesn't go by popular vote in these matters. We were not seeking votes. We are not seeking populism. We are only doing what is in the interest of our national security. I don't have any apprehensions of this sort (about US sanctions)... Whatever will come, we will face it."

On the long-run impact of the CTBT stalemate on Indo-US relations, Mr Gujral said, "We have stated our position. If any nation feels that its relations with us are not in its interest... fine. But we will never compromise on our national interest. India's relations with United States are very vast. They are not confined to any one agenda."

Mr Gujral said that the situation on CTBT is still a "developing" one and, hence, nothing can be said for sure about which way the talks would go when the conference resumes dialogue. "We will see what postures nations adopt when they reassemble and what type of situation emerges," he said.

Asked whether he hopes the CTBT would be signed by the year-end, the minister said, "Let us see. It is a developing situation. We have made our stand clear and I see no reason for diluting our stand."

Asked whether India's future programmes in space exploration and nuclear energy would be affected if it did not sign the CTBT, Mr Gujral said, "Nobody has been helping us in these programmes... Our programmes will go on." Reiterating that India still retains its nuclear option, the minister said, "We have not used our nuclear option because of our security assessment. It depends on our assessment of the security environment." Welcoming the installation of a new government in Bangladesh, the minister informed that Foreign Secretary Salman Haider will visit Dhaka this week as India's special envoy to Bangladesh. "We have nothing but warm appreciation for Bangladesh We would be quite willing to discuss all outstanding matters including the 1975 friendship treaty, trade and water sharing disputes without any preconditions," Mr Gujral said.

He indicated that a new formulation regarding trade would have to be worked out after SAPTA [South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement] and SAFTA [expansion unknown] come into force in the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] region. Asked

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

about the recent visit of Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar to India, Mr Gujral said that he discussed all issues with the Lankan envoy including terrorism. "However, we have no intention of interfering in their internal affairs," Mr Gujral said.

On whether India cleared the popular apprehensions of Sri Lanka over the DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] coming to power in Tamil Nadu and participating in the government at the Centre, Mr Gujral said, "He (Mr Kadirgamar) went back fully satisfied that the policy statement I made includes the perceptions of the DMK as well. On elections in Russia, the minister said that India would continue to have good relations with the country "whichever government comes to power (because) it is in our mutual benefit both strategically and economically."

Mr Gujral informed that a high-level exchange of delegations with China is expected to by the year-end to sort out bilateral matters including the sensitive border issue. "Already thinning of forces at the border is happening," the minister said.

India: Minister Optimistic on Kashmir Autonomy

BK3006164996 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The home minister, Mr. Indrajit Gupta, says autonomy for Jammu and Kashmir is very much on the card, but the quantum [of autonomy] would be decided by the new state assembly. Talking to AIR [All India Radio] correspondent in New Delhi today, he said autonomy is necessary to overcome the problems of the state. He said the dates for holding assembly elections would be announced after the extension of president's rule. The extension will get parliament's approval in the coming session. Mr. Gupta said the government has no intention of postponing elections and it would be held as soon as possible with consultation of the Election Commission.

India: Home Minister Tells Kashmir Militants To Shun Violence

BK0207133096 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The home minister, Mr. Indrajit Gupta, has called upon the militants in Jammu and Kashmir to shun violence and join the national mainstream. He was talking to a group of people who had given up violence and are now working for a lasting peace in the state through a forum. The group met the prime minister recently as part of the ongoing efforts of the government to hold negotiations with such people who had given up terrorist activities.

India: IAF Finds Su-30 Fighters Fit 'Futuristic Requirements'

BK0207043996 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 1 Jul 96 p 7

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The air headquarters is in the process of earmarking squadrons that will be handed over the long-range Sukhoi-30 MK multirole fighters from Russia. "It might take up to a year before the first Sukhoi is inducted after the deal becomes operational" said a senior Air Force official speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Sukhoi fighter aircraft was first test flown and evaluated in June 1994 by a team of visiting Air Force officials to Irkutsk in Russia. A second variant, the twin seater Su-30MK, was approved after it was subsequently evaluated in June 1995. The requirement for a multi-role combat aircraft with deep strike capabilities has been recorded as a priority area for the Eighth Plan period of the Indian Air Force in keeping with its futuristic requirements.

According to Air Force officials, there are only two other aircraft that fit into the Su-30 class. These are the American F- 16s and the French Mirage 2000-5. While the F-16s are out of bounds for political reasons, the Mirage 2000-5 is considered too expensive.

"The Russian option works out cheaper and will hopefully be more reliable to the European option," said a Defence Ministry official while claiming that lobbies were at work to scuttle defence deals with the Russians. "Most of these lobbies are European," he added.

The IAF [Indian Air Force] has projected a need for 40 Sukhoi-30 MK aircraft, which is a top-of-the-line high performance aircraft. These 40 aircraft are likely to form five squadrons with eight aircraft each. However, the deal will involve technology transfer and joint production facility which is considered imperative following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Defence Ministry officials point out how, despite earlier problems, the Russians are emerging as relatively reliable defence partners. Interestingly, Pakistan has been trying to strengthen defence relations with Russia.

Recently, Pakistan purchased from Russia Mi-17 military transport helicopters. Two helicopters were supplied in May this year and six more are in the pipeline. This is the first major defence deal between the two countries. France has also recently agreed to supply to Pakistan Mirage-III fighters.

In contrast, Defence Ministry officials point out that when India concluded a deal to buy two squadrons of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the Mirage-2000 multirole fighters, it did not include any munitions. "Military aircraft without munition is civil aviation," remarked a senior Defence Ministry official saying that New Delhi was forced to enter into fresh negotiations with Paris for purchase of munitions required for the Mirages.

India: 'Widespread' Protest Against Petroleum Products Price Hike

BK0307114496 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There has been widespread protest from different walks of life against the hike in prices of petroleum products. The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has criticized the steep increase in the prices of petrol and petroleum products. The party spokesperson, Mrs. Sushma Swaraj, said in New Delhi today that the hike will have a cascading effect on every front. The party has demanded immediate withdrawal of the increase in prices.

The Tamil Nadu unit of the CPI-M and the MDMK [Communist Party of India-Marxist and the Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] in separate statements in Madras today demanded immediate withdrawal of the hike in the price of petroleum products. Meanwhile, a section of auto rickshas in Madras and the Chingleput MGR District have resorted to strike in protest against the hike. In Kerala, auto rickshas are off the roads in several parts in protest against the hike. The opposition leader in the state assembly and former chief minister, Mr. A.K. Antony, has urged the center to reconsider its decision on the price hike.

In the Rajasthan Assembly, members belonging to the BJP, Congress, CPI-M and some independents criticized the central government's decision to increase the prices of petroleum products, including LPG [liquefied petroleum gas], just before the budget session of parliament. As reported, the government last night announced that the prices of petrol will go up by 25 percent, while that of high-speed diesel and domestic LPG by 30 percent each. This has come into force with immediate effect. The increase is on the basic prices of the products exclusive of excise duties and sales tax. However, kerosene prices remain unchanged.

India: BJP, Congress Note Charges Against Federal Ministers

BK0207133696 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has urged the prime minister to initiate a cleanup of his cabinet and drop ministers with a dubious past. Talking to journalists in New Delhi today, the party spokesperson, Ms. Sushma Swaraj, cited the names of several ministers and charged that their credentials were not screened before including them in the cabinet.

Referring to the action taken by the Gujarat government in filing cases against 32 persons involved in the assault on a minister, Ms. Swaraj denied reports that the party is shielding several ministers involved in the incident.

The Indian National Congress has again said that the prime minister should consider the charges leveled against some of his cabinet colleagues. Talking to newspersons in New Delhi today, the party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said that the prime minister has to take care of the image of the United Front government.

India: Congress Urges Gowda To 'Consider' Charges Against Minister

BK0107142696 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Indian National Congress says the prime minister should consider the charges leveled against the minister of state for home, Mr. Mohammad Taslimuddin. Talking to newspersons in New Delhi today, the party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said it is true that the findings against him are based on Bihar assembly committee report. The charges are serious. When asked if the minister concerned should be divested of his portfolio, the spokesman said that it is for the prime minister to decide.

Mr. Gadgil also said that no show-cause notice has been sent to the Madhya Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Digvijay Singh. He said a party joint secretary dealing with the state affairs had sent a letter to Mr. Digvijay Singh in his personal capacity seeking clarification on certain questions. The spokesman said it is unprecedented that a joint secretary is asking for explanation from a chief minister.

About Mr. Karunakaran's reported statement on Mr. Narasimha Rao, the spokesman said it is for the Disciplinary Action Committee to decide whether or not to take any action against Mr. Karunakaran.

India: Minister of State for Home Rejects BJP Allegation

BK0207151896 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The union minister of state for home, Mr. Taslimuddin, has refuted the charge of the Bharatiya Janata Party that he has a criminal background. At a press conference in Patna today, he said that with the installation of the United Front

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

government at the center, the process of his character assassination has begun. He said he had never been sent to jail on criminal charges, however, a case was registered against him in 1986 by the Purnia district administration for political reasons.

India: Home Minister Refutes Press Reports on Ayodhya, UP Election

BK0307095396 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The home minister says certain press reports stating that the Ayodhya [mosque-temple] dispute itself will be solved before the UP [Uttar Pradesh] assembly elections or that elections will be postponed until the dispute is solved are totally incorrect. In a statement in New Delhi today, Mr. Indrajit Gupta clarified that what he had told the media was that the Ayodhya dispute would be referred to the Supreme Court under Article 138-2 of the Constitution before the UP assembly elections. He said the exact date of reference would be decided after consultation with the prime minister.

India: Congress Leader Karunakaran Refutes Reported Remarks on Rao

BK0207044996 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The senior Congress leader, Mr. K. Karunakaran, has said that he never wanted Mr. Narasimha Rao to resign from the party president's post after the electoral debacle of the Congress in the Lok Sabha elections. He was denying the reports published in a section of the press, quoting him as saying that Mr. Rao should have accepted personal responsibility for the party's poor show and offered to resign as Congress president. Mr. Karunakaran, who is also a member of the Congress Working Committee, met Mr. Narasimha Rao in New Delhi today.

Iran

Iran: Clandestine Radio Reports on Bahraini Executions

NC0207175596 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1400 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reports, the Bahraini Information and Security minister remarked in an interview with the Egyptian newspaper AL-AHRAM that an arsonist group had recently been arrested by the Bahrain security forces, and that this extremist group had intended to topple the Bahraini Government with the direct support of the Iranian clerical regime and to install an Islamic government similar to Iran. The group had used the services of women—who, according to Islamic tradition are exempt from the usual checks—for importing weapons into the country.

The Bahraini Information and Security minister added: The terrorists, who have the support of the Iranian regime, abused the social immunity of women and used them to carry arms and to generate insecurity and unrest in Bahrain.

Meanwhile, yesterday, that is on Monday [1 July] the Bahrain State Security Court sentenced three Shiites of the country to be executed. These three persons are accused of planting a bomb in a restaurant, which killed seven Bangladeshis. Four others were sentenced to life imprisonment in connection with this incident.

It is worth mentioning that the Bahraini Government accuses the Iranian clerical regime of supporting and training Bahraini Shiite terrorists.

Iran: Velayati, Syrian Counterpart Review Bahrain Mediation Talks

LD0107174996 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Our country's foreign minister, Mr. ['Ali Akbar] Velayati, met his Syrian counterpart, Mr. Faruq al-Shar'. At this meeting, Mr. al-Shar' said that the Islamic Republic of Iran's goodwill toward its neighbors would benefit the region's stability. He referred to Iran as a great Islamic state, which plays a significant role in the region's stability and security.

Mr. al-Shar', who has come to Tehran after a meeting with the Bahraini authorities, stressed the need for and the importance of removing the existing misunderstanding between Manama and Tehran. He said he had held positive talks with the Bahraini officials on the two sides' [Iran-Bahrain] relations.

Mr. Velayati, at this meeting, said: Good-neighborliness and efforts to improve ties with neighbors are principles of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy. He stressed the need for avoiding tension and misunderstanding in the relations among the regional countries.

Mr. Velayati pointed out: Any misunderstanding and tension in the ties of the regional countries stem from foreign provocations and will serve the interests of the enemies of the Muslim nations in the region.

Mr. Velayati thanked the Syrian officials for their diplomatic efforts and goodwill, which are undertaken to remove the misunderstanding in Tehran-Manama ties.

After arriving in Tehran, Mr. Faruq al-Shar', on his country's relations with Turkey, said: There is no doubt

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

that in the wake of the military pact signed between Turkey and Israel, Turkey's relations with the Arab and Islamic countries have cooled. He added: If the Turkish Government were to draw up its foreign policy with the intention of serving the true interests of the Muslims in that country, no discord would appear between that country and the Arab and Islamic states.

Iran: President Pledges 'Friendly' Gulf Ties in al-Shar' Talks

NC0207132696 Paris AFP in English 1201 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Tehran, July 2 (AFP)— President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Tuesday [2 July] pledged "friendly" ties between Iran and its Gulf Arab neighbors in a meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani praised Syria's "humanitarian efforts" in seeking to mediate in a dispute between Iran and Bahrain.

"Iran has always pursued a policy of good neighborly relations with the region's countries without interference from foreigners," he said, in comments faxed to AFP from his office, referring to the presence of Western forces in the Gulf.

"We seek friendly cooperation to continue toward peace and stability."

Al-Shar', who arrived here Monday from Bahrain, praised Tehran for "cooperating to restore friendship between the region's countries."

Iran has been accused by Bahrain of trying to topple the government in Manama and of being behind the violence which has rocked the Gulf archipelago since December 1994, claiming 22 lives. Tehran fiercely denies the accusations. [passage omitted]

Iran: 4-Day Naval Exercises Begin in Persian Gulf

LD3006140996 Tehran IRNA in English 1349 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormuzgan Province, June 30, IRNA — A missile maneuver codenamed Falaqh-5 was launched by the naval forces of the Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps in the Persian Gulf Sunday [30 June].

According to the public relations deportment of the Navy, the four day military exercise is aimed at enhancing the combat readiness of naval forces participating in the maneuver.

In the first phase of the war game, participant forces tested their missile, communication, defence and transport equipment and systems.

Iran: Missile Maneuver Ends in Persian Gulf

LD0307110496 Tehran IRNA in English 1049 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormuzgan Prov., July 3, IRNA — The missile maneuver codenamed Falaqh-5 launched by the naval forces of the army and Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) ended successfully in the Persian Gulf waters Wednesday [3 July].

In the third and last stage of the 4-day war game, installation of missile pads, hypothetical firing of two missiles against intercepted targets, operations against hypothetical enemy commandoes and interception of targets were carried out successfully.

The participant forces also performed operation to thwart hypothetical enemy's chemical attacks.

Missile sites of the Khatam ul-Anbia headquarters as well as missile units of the naval forces of the army and IRGC attended the war exercise enchancing the combat readiness of the participant forces.

Iran: 50,000 Troops Exercise Near Mashhad

LD0107151696 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1200 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Fifty thousand members of the Basij and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps from the Khorasan Province have participated in a camp for combat alertness entitled "Covenant with Guardianship" to demonstrate their capabilities in defending the achievements of the glorious Islamic revolution led by his eminence, the C-in-C, Ayatollah Khamene'i.

In the excercise, held in the Naynava operational region 35km from Mashhad, the participating forces were organized in two corps and three divisions, and successfully held exercises for combat alertness, speedy transport of troops to hypothetical areas of combat, and tactical infantry movements supported by armoured equipment.

A group of commanders and officials, including Major-General Mohsen Reza'i were present at the exercises.

In an address, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Va'ez-Tabasi, the representative of the guardian jurisconsult to Khorasan Province and the head of the Razavi Shrine Foundation, paid tribute to the late Imam Khomeyni and said: These exercises gives us greater hope in the bright future of the Islamic Republic.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

He added: We must improve our military knowledge and strengthen ourselves in terms of ideas, beliefs, culture and spirituality.

The C-in-C of the Guards Corps, Mohsen Reza'i, said the aims of this combat camp included organization of forces, speedy reaction, cultural development of Islamic combatants and the transfer of the military experience gained during the eight years of sacred defense.

Iran: Pro-Iranian Parties Reportedly Meet in Tehran

JN2806164696 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 29 Jun-5 Jul 96 p 17

["Exclusive" report from Damascus: "Leaders of Islamic and Radical Arab Organizations Meet in Tehran"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Coinciding with the Cairo summit held early last week, Iran invited a large number of leaders of pro-Iranian organizations for a meeting in Tehran to discuss setting up a joint working committee under the auspices of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps. In a bid to interpret this move, Western diplomatic sources told SHIHAN that the Iranian Mullahs were vexed by the efforts of some Gulf countries to adopt a collective Arab stand condemning Tehran's support for the Islamic and radical Arab movements. They were also worried about the pressures that were applied on Syria to downgrade its relations with Iran.

The sources added that Tehran fears that a unified Arab position regarding a political settlement will weaken its role and might even isolate it from Syria, its only Arab ally in the region.

The sources noted that the most prominent figures in Tehran were Ramadan Shalah, leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement; Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command; and 'Imad al-'Alami and Mustafa al-Liddawi, prominent Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] officials. Also attending the meeting were representatives of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Egypt, Hizballah in Lebanon, and the Kurdistan Workers Party, in addition to leaders of other Arab opposition parties that have close relations with Tehran.

Iran: Velayati on Economic Cooperation With Ukraine, Turkmenistan

LD2806180696 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister ['Ali Akbar] Velayati has announced: The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes the expansion of all-round ties, in particular economic relations, with the Commonwealth of Independent States and the formation of regional cooperation.

Before leaving Kiev today, where tripartite economic meetings were held between Iran, Ukraine, and Turkmenistan, and upon his return to Tehran [as heard], he told a Central News Unit correspondent: The ways of expanding economic cooperation between Iran, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine were reviewed during the third round of tripartite economic talks and according to agreements reached the three countries will cooperate in the trade, commerce, banking, and technical fields according to three cooperation documents which they have signed. According to Mr. Velayati, within the next two years $300 million of trade and services will be undertaken by the three countries which will be a successful model for multilateral regional states.

The foreign minister, referring to the importance of expanding regional cooperation, considered the expansion of ties to strengthen peace and stability in the region and increase the quality and quantity of political, economic and commercial ties between the countries of the region and added: The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes other countries from the region and eastern Europe joining in the multilateral meetings.

Finally, Mr. Velayati announced: A joint economic meeting is soon to be held between Turkmenistan, Armenia, and Iran in Ashgabat, aimed at expanding economic cooperation and increasing trade.

Iran: Editorial on Israel's Part in Turkish Border Bombing

LD0207172896 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 29 Jun 96 p 1

[Editorial: "Turkish Incursion"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The latest incursion of Turkish military aircraft into Iranian airspace is yet another criminal act against the defenceless people in the country's northwest region.

This cowardly and impudent act comes amid the new military cooperation between Turkey and Islam's main foe, the Israeli regime, under which Ankara hopes to boost its defence capability.

In January 1994, a Turkish jet fighter targeted civilians killing nine and wounding many others.

There is no doubt that Wednesday's [26 June] incident, in view of the military pact between Ankara and Tel Aviv, indicates the well-calculated Zionist plan to sow

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and spread discord and disputes among the regional countries.

Given the wide scope of the new cooperation between Turkey and Israel, it is appropriate to ask whether Israeli pilots were behind this incident which caused the death of four women and two children and left 15 injured.

No doubt, our response should be tough and our Foreign Ministry officials should note all the developments which culminated in the close military agreement between Turkey and Israel. This unprecedented cooperation between a Muslim state and a bitter foe of Muslims poses a major threat to the national security of the regional states.

The Turkish leaders ignored the logical views presented by Ankara's neighbours and went ahead with their plan to overtly extend Turkey's airspace facilities to Zionist jet fighters.

Impartial observers believe that the US, the main backer of Ankara, directed this pact.

Now, it is up to our Foreign Minister to take this issue seriously and ensure that innocent blood of our fellow citizens will not be shed.

Iran: Christopher Mideast Visit Seen as Election Tactic

LD0207173596 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 25 Jun 96 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Christopher's ME Visit Not for Peace But Clinton's Re-Election"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, facing a delicate mission, is due to arrive in Israel today for prickly parleys with the rightist Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. He will also travel to Cairo to meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian Leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Christopher has visited the region 21 times since 1993, when the peace process between the Arabs and Israel started. It will be his first visit to the Middle East since Netanyahu took office.

He is visiting this part of the world at a time when the overall situation here has been changed since a cease-fire between Hizballah and Israel was established in April after bloody incidents in which over one hundred Lebanese civilians were killed by Israeli air, land and sea raids.

The secretary of state is visiting the sensitive area where on the eve of his arrival at Cairo, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi broke a US sponsored sanction and flew into the Egyptian capital to attend the Arab Summit. Al-Qadhdhafi upon arrival in Cairo was given a red carpet welcome by Mubarak.

Christopher's Middle East visit is taking place at a time when the US has lost all credibility among its Arab allies as an honest and impartial broker for peace, a fact that was quite evident at the two-day summit of 21 Arab nations which ended Sunday [23 June].

His visit also coincides with Netanyahu's decision to renege, using the bullying powers of the United States, on all promises made to Arabs by his predecessors.

Ironically, the situation has become such that the victory of Clinton in the November elections hangs on racist-extremist Netanyahu.

Anyway, observers in Iran believe that the Cairo summit was a successful one up to a certain extent and compared to similar conferences in the recent past.

The significant aspect, according to Iranian observers, was a face-to-face meeting between certain Arab leaders who were at odds with each other for the last several years. It will be best for the region if hostility among the Arab leaders is removed so that a united front may emerge.

Christopher, during his visit to Tel Aviv will see rightist ministers such as David Levy and Ariel Sharon who are against making peace with their Arab neighbours.

Moreover, Christopher has no new words for the people of the region as he is not coming to make peace here. He is definitely facing a peculiar situation as the resident of the White House wants to please both Jewish and Arab lobbies to ensure his re-election.

So, Christopher's visit is only aimed at strengthening Clinton's chances for re-election, not for peace in the Middle East.

Iran: Daily Says U.S. Needs To Overhaul Trade Policy

LD2906090696 Tehran IRNA in English 0726 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 29, IRNA — U.S. officials, if they are wise enough, should revise their country's trade policies, an English-language paper commented Saturday, saying that Washington is increasingly becoming more isolated in view of the punitive measures that it wants to resort to against Cuba, Iran, and Libya.

"U.S. trade partners have given a clear-cut message to the White House saying its trade policies could lead to tit-for-tat reprisals if Washington did not stop its

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

unjustified bid to punish Europeans" doing business with Havana, Tehran and Tripoli, 'TEHRAN TIMES' wrote.

Saying that the U.S. trade blackmail was meant to punish Iran for its alleged involvement in terrorism, the editorial stressed, "the voice of all members of the European Union (EU), as well as Canada and a number of other countries... unanimously exonerate Iran from such unfounded charges."

Citing statements made in protest of U.S. sanctions, it mentioned the warning of French President Jacques Chirac of a "cycle of reprisals" if the Americans pushed through with the legislation punishing investors in Iran and Libya.

Moreover, "European Commission President Jacques Santer warned that EU-U.S. relations could be threatened."

Canadian officials have likewise described the sanctions as "wrong-headed and ill-conceived" and even the U.K., a staunch ally of the U.S. has protested the punitive measures, with British Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke issuing a warning over any specific economic measures by the U.S.

Underlining the isolation of Washington in its anti-Iran policy, the article called on U.S. statesmen to revise their trade policies as they are swimming against the current.

Calling on the EU, especially France and Germany to adopt a more active role in the Middle East, the article concluded by saying, "the rebuff (the Europeans) gave to the U.S. during the G-7 meeting was welcomed by the Third World, with which the EU should develop closer relations, adding that reciprocation would undoubtedly be spontaneous.

Iran: Daily on U.S. 'Paper Tiger,' Iran's 'Self-Sufficiency'

NC2906132796 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 22 Jun 96 p 16

[Unattributed commentary: "The Enemy Can Also Be a Source of Benefit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The approval of a bill for the intensification of the sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran by the U.S. Congress—despite appearances the U.S. hierarchy is trying to keep up—have proved that Washington is in a position of immense weakness in this regard. The reason for this obvious and intense weakness are:

1. In the text of the bill it has been stated that "every company that invests more than $40 million in the oil and gas industry will be subjected to a trade embargo by the United States." This clause considers it permissible for all companies, including American ones, to invest in Iran's oil and gas to the ceiling specified. This represents a sort of effort on the part of the United States not to lag behind its European rivals in trade with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

2. The European Commission [EC] spokesman objected to the bill as being tantamount to U.S. interference in the affairs of other countries and said: "Europe's pressure has been instrumental in keeping banks and trade transactions unaffected by this embargo."

The U.S. retreat in this regard—prior to all else—proves the U.S. weakness with regard to Europe. Such a situation is an overt and shameful defeat for the United States, which claims to be a world leader.

3. In addition to the EC, European countries and all their governments have independently objected to the latest U.S. move and declared that they intend to ignore it. The U.S. lack of credibility on the international level is such that some companies have displayed a reaction against the Congress decision and consider it invalid.

All in all, the path that the United States has adopted for quite some time, and continues to insist on in another form and under the guise of an intensification, has brought nothing but material losses and dealt a blow to its prestige as a result.

The lack of support by governments to go along with the U.S. administration, and the widening fissure between Europe and the United States in the past year were blows that have been inflicted directly on the country's reputation and proved that the United States is nothing but a paper tiger.

On the other hand, the embargo of the past year proved that the Islamic Republic of Iran has attained such a degree of self-sufficiency that not only do such decisions not cause any hardship for our country, but they will also further enhance its stability and steadfastness.

In view of this clear experience, and with the firm infrastructure and distinctive position on the international level that the Islamic Republic of Iran currently enjoys—regardless of what decision the United States were to adopt, or any effort it would make against the deep rooted and popular system—it would be similar to a fire, the smoke of which would blind the United States itself, while the light and heat would benefit others, including Iran. As the adage goes, the enemy can also be a source of benefit if God so wishes.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Iran: Daily Says U.S. Forces Should Leave Region 'Immediately'

LD0207082496 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 27 Jun 96 p 2

[Unattributed article: "American Forces Should Quit Region Unconditionally"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Once more a bomb blast in Saudi Arabia has drawn world public attention, and experts have come to the conclusion that apparently there is no full stop to such acts if drastic changes are not brought about in the attitude of the Riyadh kingdom.

According to the reports, 19 Americans were killed and scores were seriously injured in Tuesday's blast at Khobor Towers, which houses U.S. servicemen based at 'Abd-al-'Aziz base near Dhahran.

This was the second blast, the first having occurred on 13th November last year. Four people, responsible for the first blast, were tried and hanged by the Saudi government.

In principle, terrorism is to be unequivocally condemned. However, regional observers believe that such acts will continue as long as the American forces are present in this part of the world, particularly in Saudi Arabia.

We should not forget that Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Islam, enjoys a special status in the Islamic world. The country houses Islam's holiest places, and it should be remembered that Saudi Arabia's history is based on the Islamic principles and that its previous rulers such as King Sa'ud and King Faysal never tolerated the presence of alien forces on their land.

That is a far cry from the practice of the present rulers in Riyadh which allows non-Muslims even to engage in debauchery at a time when we are witnessing the worldwide revival of Islamic movement.

Apparently, the Saudi government tried to secure its Islamic status, but the Sunni ulema of that country have raised eye-brows, objecting to the presence of non-Muslim forces particularly Americans in that country.

In the context of these bitter facts, it is hard to believe that the cycle of the violence will end so easily. The only solution to the problem is to give due respect to the international public opinion. And that would mean the unconditional withdrawal of the American forces from Saudi Arabia.

The fact is that under the circumstances prevailing in the region, Saudi Arabia does not need the American forces at all.

Saudi Arabia, Iran and some other regional countries are quite capable of maintaining peace here in a friendly atmosphere. There is no need for the American forces and they should leave the region immediately.

Iran: Clinton's 'Failure' on Iran Will Affect U.S. Elections

LD2806165796 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 24 Jun 96 p 2

[Headline: "The U.S. Global Isolation: An Outcome of Clinton's Policy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. "Washington does not seek to overthrow the Iranian government, nor does it seek a military confrontation with Iran," Bill Clinton, the defeated American president has said in an interview with the London based Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT. He also said that Washington's policy, in its recent anti-Iranian actions, was to change the government's revolutionary behavior. Once again he called for a dialogue with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This is not the first time that an American president is trying to initiate a dialogue with Iran after failing to implement his bullheaded and hateful policy against the Islamic Republic of Iran. This policy was also pursued by previous American presidents, including Carter, Reagan, and Bush, who came to face Iran's cold and unconcerned reaction, and who experienced the failure of their methods.

Now that the White House is feeling the humiliating failure of its policy in imposing comprehensive economic sanctions against Islamic Iran, it is trying to repeat the methods which had failed earlier. Of course, Clinton and his Zionist aides are incompetent in their approach toward Islamic Iran, but it seems unrealistic to think that they are so ignorant about issues relating to Iran and the United States, that they do knot know that such policies against a popular revolution will prove to be useless and hopeless.

Now, our question is this: Why did Clinton use such a policy and why did he try to impose sanctions and even try international economic encirclement of Islamic Iran?

To answer this question we should examine Washington's views on Islamic Iran and understand this important notion among American analysts that since the [death of] Imam [Khomeyni], Iran should no longer be enjoying the revolutionary enthusiasm shown in the first years of the movement. However, the secret of the great and humiliating U.S. defeat in the international arena lies in the fact that Washington never expected such steadfastness from the people and the government of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the Islamic Republic, particularly since 17 years have passed since the victory of the revolution. It never believed that the brave people of Iran would be present with the same revolutionary zeal and with the same idealistic motives, shown in the early days of the revolution, in order to defeat the hateful policies of the U.S. and to place American officials in a "reactive position".

It might be difficult for some people to understand the depth of the plans pursued by Clinton and his Zionist aides, and the fact that Washington was planning on Iran's total international isolation, in the fields of politics, economics, and trade. Of course this policy was defeated, but let us not forget that the United States used all its power to guarantee the success of this plan and went as far as to threaten its allies.

The defeat should at least teach a new lesson to Clinton, his Zionist aides and the U.S. decision-makers, and make them understand the obvious fact that nothing in Islamic Iran has changed or will change to the benefit of the United States. In Iran, everyone believes that U.S. threats, promises, aggressions and even requests for dialogue are worthless and best forgotten.

Clinton's defeat has created a new international crisis for Washington, and his immature policies have opened the way for visible European opposition to the United States. This has been the greatest international achievement of a policy of hate against Islamic Iran, and this will undoubtedly tip the balance in favor of his rivals in the next U.S. elections.

Iran: British Diplomat Railed Over Comments on Gulf Affairs

NC0107090996 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Jun 96 p 14

[Commentary by Maryam Mahdavi: "Britain and New Mischief in the Persian Gulf"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two days ago the British ambassador in Riyadh, who is apparently unaware of Persian Gulf regional news, accused Iran of encouraging unrest in Bahrain and of trying to create instability in the Persian Gulf. This man, appearing to be extremely concerned about the situation in the Arab countries, expressed his country's full support for the Manama government and proposed cooperation between European and Arab countries to confront Iranian intervention! It seems that the British ambassador in Riyadh, who pretends to be more Catholic than the pope in his support for the Bahraini rulers and for the Persian Gulf countries, has again embarked on efforts to create tension and instability in the region. The British ambassador has apparently forgotten that the British empire is no more and that countries today do not need a guardian. Instead of solving other countries' problems, it would be better for the British diplomat to glance at the situation in his own country and his country's position in Europe and, instead of trying to create stability! in the Persian Gulf, try to solve the problems his country is facing with its neighbors. This, undoubtedly, should be a greater concern for him than direct intervention and expressing views about other countries.

The British ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Andrew Green, has also tried to repeat the test of the Zionists' defeated formula on Iran. Before expressing any views, the British, who wrongly consider themselves the custodians of the region, should refer to history and then talk about unity between Arab and European countries against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Shim'on Peres, known for his enmity toward Iran, was the first to propose Arab-Western unity to confront Iran in the region. We all saw how he failed. Now it is as if the British ambassador has awakened from his sleep and is calling for the same unity.

He should know that his comments violate international laws and regulations and are tantamount to intervention in the affairs of another country. The spirit ruling the remarks by the British ambassador is the same colonialist and interfering spirit that ruled during the old British colonialism of the 19th century. It is as though these gentlemen have still not awakened from their deep sleep to realize that this era is over. And while the Bahraini foreign minister, understanding his country's position in the region and the need for good-neighborly relations, calls for improving relations with Tehran, the British ambassador speaks exuberantly about Iran being an element of instability in the region!

He should know that the main element of instability in the region are the foreign countries and their unrestrained intervention, and that if the foreigners stop their gracious! intervention, tranquility and stability will return to the Persian Gulf. A look at the recent history of the region also shows that it has always been foreign intervention and the presence of foreign forces that have upset regional tranquility and stability and have created tension among neighbors. If Britain and its allies realize how far they can go and start behaving in line with international laws and customs, the regional countries will enjoy security and stability under the aegis of their many common religious and cultural ties and their common interests.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Iran: Oil Committee Official Sees U.S.-EU Split on Sanctions

LD2906060396 Tehran IRNA in English 0553 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 29, IRNA — The disagreement of members of the European Union (EU) with the recent bill passed by the U.S. Congress indicates that European countries follow an independent policy, said Mohsen Yahyavi, vice-president of the Majlis Oil Committee.

In an interview with the English-langage TEHRAN TIMES printed Saturday, Yahyavi, who is a deputy from the Tehran constituency, criticized the U.S decision to impose punitive measures against foreign companies having commercial and economic relations with Iran.

Such measures are doomed to fail and they violated the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement, he told the paper.

Remarking that Washington's anti-Iran policy was a bid by the American President to gain the support of Zionist groups, he said, "Clinton set forth the issue of Iran's trade embargo in a meeting with Zionist leaders," noting that, "this showed that (Clinton) is completely dependent on the Zionists."

Asked about his views on the fifth Majlis, Yahyavi stated that parliamentary deputies must always take into account the interests of the people, Islam and the revolution.

The daily further quoted him as emphasizing "following the path of Imam Khomeyni, practicing the guidelines of the supreme leader, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, as well as supporting the programs of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani would guarantee the success of parliament."

Iran: Majles Deputy Says U.S. 'Threats' Against Iran 'Doomed to Failure'

LD0107154696 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Jun 96 pp1, 14

[Unattributed report: "Yahyavi: US Plots Against Iran Doomed to Failure"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TEHRAN — The United States' threats against the Islamic Republic of Iran are doomed to failure, said Tehran representative in the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) and vice president of the Majlis Oil Committee, Seyyed Mohsen Yahyavi, in an exclusive interview with the 'TEHRAN TIMES'.

Yahyavi noted that the EU members' disagreement with the recent bill passed by the US Congress against Iran indicates that the European countries follow an independent policy, not whatever the United States dictates.

He further criticized the US decision to enforce punitive measures against foreign companies that have commercial and economic dealings with the Islamic Republic, saying that, in this decision, the United States violates the WTO [World Trade Organization] agreement.

Referring to the upcoming presidential elections in the United States, Yahyavi stressed that the US president tries to gain the support of Zionist groups through an ant-Iran policy, and that Clinton set forth the issue of Iran's trade embargo in a meeting with Zionist leaders for the first time. "This shows that he is completely dependent on Zionists."

As a member of parliament in [the] fourth and fifth [terms of the] Majlis, Yahyavi further elaborated on the characteristics of the fifth Majlis, saying that the members of parliament must take into account the interests of the people, Islam and the revolution.

Asked to comment on the future of cooperation among different parties in the Majlis, Yahyavi said that as long as this cooperation is based on the valuable guidelines of the supreme leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, it will lead to the further development of the country.

In conclusion, Yahyavi emphasized that following the path of Imam Khomeyni, practising the guidelines of the supreme leader, Ayatollah Khamene'i, and supporting the programmes of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani will guarantee the success of parliament.

Iran: Daily Says G-7 Summit Reveals Resistance to U.S. 'Moves'

LD0107163496 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 1, IRNA — The Persian daily 'IRAN' said Monday that the final declaration of the recent G-7 summit in Lyon, France, put an end to efforts of the United States to force Europe coordinate its moves to suit Washington's interests.

Resistance of Europe, a new phenomenon in the several decades of the U.S. efforts to americanize Europe, has been received with great optimism in the free world.

Attempts of Bill Clinton to make Europe play to its tune, had no effect on Lyon summit and Europe gave another 'no' to America, added the editorial.

The refusal of Europe to join in the American sanctions against Iran has put Washington in an uneasy situation. The developments of the past several years of the world

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

are proof to the validity of European understanding of maintaining a rational distance from the United States.

According to the editorial, the decision of the European countries to continue dialog with Iran was expected. The talks which aim at forging greater mutual understanding and paving the way for comprehensive cooperation whould produce positive results in bilateral relations.

The paper pointed out that the success and productivity of the talks depend on paying due attention to the issues raised.

Now Iran and Europe must demonstrate that balanced talks and demands will push them towards success.

Europe knows well that selective and dual approach is acceptable from neither side and the success of the shuttle diplomacy solely rests with understanding, away from any U.S. influence.

Iran: Commentary Sees Egypt Playing France Against U.S.

LD0207140696 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 2 Jul 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has gone to France to discuss the results of the Arab summit in Cairo, the prospects for peace in the Middle East, and increasing European involvement in this region. Today, too, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa is due to visit Britain to hold talks about these same issues with his British counterpart and other senior British officials.

Although Britain and France play the greatest role in Middle East developments compared to other European countries, nevertheless, since Britain tends in practice to coordinate its Middle East stand with the United States — despite being a member of the European Union — Arab countries, which now feel threatened by the United States' support for Tel Aviv's expansionism, are trying, through rapprochement with France, both to exploit that country's independent role in Middle East developments and, through France, to increase the political role played by the European Union in the Middle East, especially in the peace process.

Husni Mubarak's visit to France is taking place following two important international meetings, that is, the Arab summit in Cairo and the G-7 meeting in the French city of Lyon; following the resumption of disputes between Egypt and the United States; and following the propaganda campaigns by the two countries' mass media against one another. France and Egypt each hosted one of these two international conferences and, exchanging views about the outcome of these two summits, especially the commonalities, formed the main axis of their talks.

At both these meetings, the Zionist regime's adherence to UN resolutions and to the principles agreed at the talks in Madrid regarding the exchange of land for peace were stressed. For this reason, the scope of Mubarak's visit to Paris can be seen as wider than the pursuit of Egypt's national interests; it can be considered a visit that relates to the interests of all Arab countries.

Bearing in mind that Mubarak's visit to France is entirely in keeping with recent developments in the region, the mutual inclination of Mediterranean Arab countries and European countries to consolidate their ties goes back a few years and, in fact, arises from their mutual recognition of the dangers posed to these countries by U.S. policies. Within this framework, Egypt and France, which claim to play more prominent political roles in the Middle East and Europe, wish to impose their political views on the peace process and they see the imposition of the frameworks set by the United States as a diminution of their political roles in the Middle East. On this basis, it can be said that one of Mubarak's aims in visiting Paris is to send an implicit message from the Arab countries to U.S. officials that they should reconsider their support for the expansionism of the Zionist regime.

Iran: Velayati Addresses Seminar on Afghanistan

LD3006112996 Tehran IRNA in English 1109 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 30, IRNA — The international seminar on Afghanistan and regional security opened here today with a speech by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The foreign minister in his opening remarks expressed hope that the seminar will provide an opportunity for the Afghan nation and officials to proceed towards peace, stability and unity while realizing realities in Afghanistan and taking into account regional and internatinal developments.

Turning to the common Islamic, historical and cultural aspects between Iran and Afghanistan, he stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot overlook the developments in the neighboring country.

The foreign minister reiterated that the Islamic Republic will always stand beside the Afghan nation.

During the recent months, the Islamic Republic has intensified its efforts to pave the way for creating

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

understanding among Afghan factions and resolving disputes between the Afghan groups, he said.

The repeated visit to Afghanistan of Iranian officials and talks held with Afghan leaders were aimed at creating the ground for such an understanding, Velayati said.

Expressing content with the recent agreement between President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar, the foreign minister voiced Iran's support for the new alliance.

Velayati also stressed that Afghanistan's security has direct impact on the security of its neighbors saying security is the most important issue that links destiny of Afghanistan to that of its neighbors.

He expressed hope that all Afghan parties will work relentlessly for establishment of peace and stability in their country and avoid any discord so that they can embark on reconstruction f the war- torn country.

Besides Iranian political personalities and scholars, 27 foreign experts from Italy, France, U.S., Germany, Pakistan, Russia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Austria, China and India will present their viewpoints on Afghansitan and ways to end the crisis in the country during the seminar.

Iran: China Signs Memorandum on Manufacture of Pharmaceuticals

LD3006175896 Tehran IRNA in English 1737 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 30, IRNA — A memorandum of understanding was inked between the governments of Iran and China and private companies on Sunday in the field of production and manufacture of medical and pharmaceutical instruments.

The memorandum was signed by Iranian deputy health minister, Baghir Larijani and Chinese deputy health minister, San Lank Chon.

Based on the memorandum the two sides underscored the exchange of medical expertise and dispatch of specialized delegations to each other's countries.

The agreement provides that the two sides will make efforts to create grounds for cooperation between research and training centers for qualitative and quantitative expansion of herbal medicine in Iran and China and paving the ground for spread of tradition medicine and acupuncture in Iran.

Iran: Irish EU Presidency Welcomed

LD0107152496 Tehran IRNA in English 1425 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text]London, July 1, IRNA — Ireland assumed the six-month presidency of the European Union Monday with the ideal opportunity to improve relations with Iran based upon depoliticising the row over apostate author, Salman Rushdie.

Its rotating term may be the last Dublin controls exclusively and among key issues being given special attention are employment, drug trafficking and institutional and constitutional reforms that are due to be debated under the current review of the EU's future. The Irish Government is viewed as having excellent relations with Iran and is accredited with repairing ties with Tehran during its last presidency six years ago in the aftermath of the Fatwa issued by the late Imam Khomeini on Rushdie's life.

Reports last week suggested that most European countries were now prepared to accept the religious validity of the Fatwa, but that Britain was "holding up a compromise deal."

The breakthrough comes after the EU launched an initiative to normalise relations with Iran more than a year ago under the French presidency with the aim of improving trade relations.

The Irish presidency already has to pick up the threads from Britain's non-cooperation policy with the EU over the beef crisis and could be confronted with a further fallout if the ban on UK products is not partially lifted by early Autumn.

Other British obstruction is expected to come from Dublin's drive to give fresh impetus to the intergovernmental conference review of the EU's future with the UK showing intransigence towards common EU foreign and defense policies.

Speaking at a press conference, Irish Prime Minister, John Bruton, indicated that he wanted to bridge the gulf between Britain and the rest of the EU.

With regard to London's opposition to any extension of majority voting, he suggested it was a "purely negotiating position" but warned if Ireland was forced to choose, it would opt for closer integration rather than remain on the periphery with the UK.

Ireland, which joined the Eu with Britain in 1973, is considered unlike the UK to be one of the most pro-European members, having benefitted from being an equal partner and particularly from being the largest net fiscal recipient.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

But with future expansion of the 15-nation group and talk of 'team presidencies' being floated, its six-month term could be the last chance Dublin has to show how effectively small countries can control an exclusive presidency.

Iran: President Rafsanjani Stresses Need for Peace in Afghanistan

LD0207172996 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has said that the commitment of Afghan jihadi groups to peace will constitute the greatest service to the people of Afghanistan.

In an audience today with participants in an international seminar on Afghanistan and regional security, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: Factional clashes and infighting in Afghanistan have no logical basis, and no group will ever emerge as the winner of this war. Therefore, negotiations amid an atmosphere characterized by a spirit of self-sacrifice and an ability to forgive and show mercy is the only solution to the Afghan crisis. This is also the only possible way by which peace and stability may be restored in Afghanistan.

The president added: The Afghan civil war is not an arena for winning points and gaining concessions. Therefore, all the help and assistance given to Afghanistan by the Islamic Republic of Iran merely pursues the aim of establishing peace and ending the ongoing fratricide in that country.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed concern over the major powers exploiting the situation in Afghanistan and interfering in the affairs of that country. He warned: Interference by these countries, in particular America, which invariably pursue certain specific objectives, will mar the process of creating unity and cohesion in Afghanistan.

Moreover, the president stressed the importance of national solidarity in Afghanistan, as well as participation by all Afghan groups in the management of their country's affairs. He said: We hope the recent understandings reached in Afghanistan will result in developments which will benefit the aggrieved people of that country.

At the beginning of this audience, the foreign minister, in a report on the outcome of the seminar on Afghanistan and regional security, said: The seminar placed particular emphasis on the need to continue international support for the ongoing diplomatic efforts to establish peace in Afghanistan.

Iran: Dailies Say Solving Afghan Crisis Would Help Regional Security

LD0107084196 Tehran IRNA in English 0656 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 1, IRNA — Two English-language dailies Monday commented on the 'Third International Seminar on Afghanistan and Regional Security' which opened in Tehran Sunday, stressing that Afghan security has direct impact on the security of its neighbors.

"The prosperity of Afghanistan and the region depends on peace in every regional country," wrote 'TEHRAN TIMES', adding that instability in one country could incite instability in a neighboring state.

Lauding Iran's efforts for facilitating the seminar, it underlined that in order to maintain security at home, peace should be restored to the war-ravaged country.

The editorial remarked, however, that it was not possible to restore peace in Afghanistan unless all rival factions joined hands to put an end to the civil war, adding, "no foreign country can ever bring peace to Afghanistan."

Reiterating importance of Afghan peace to regional security, the daily concluded by saying, "by putting their home in order, Afghan leaders will be doing a service to their country and the region."

Meanwhile, the other English [language] daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL" said in view of the recent developments in Kabul, it is hoped that the three-day gathering would provide an opportunity to Afghan leaders or their representatives to reconcile their positions in the interest of their people and the higher goals of the fractured nation.

Stating that the timing of the meeting was very appropriate, it stated,"political observers believe the presence of (prime minister) Golboddin Hekmatyar in Kabul beside President Borhanoddin Rabbani would be instrumental in creating some form of amicability between various Afghan factions."

Praising Rabbani's moves to find ways to make amends with his opponents, such as his recent meeting with leaders of other Afghan factions, nevertheless, it observed that the Taliban remained a major hurdle and called on Pakistan to play a key role in bringing the group to the negotiating table.

"Now, it is acknowledged by all Afghan factions that negotiations are the only real option to the Afghan crisis," it said, concluding, "hopefully, Islamabad will show no reluctance in this respect as well and help

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the Afghans move on the path towards lasting peace, harmony and the long-awaited national reconciliation."

Iran: French Mass Media Accused of Anti-Iranian Stance

NC0307101496 Mashhad KHORASAN in Persian 19 Jun 96 p 10

[Unattributed commentary: "Who Rules French Publications?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the murder of Reza Mazlumian, a high-ranking official of the corrupt regime's [monarchy] Ministry of Education in Paris, various French publications blamed Iran and sparked a wave of negative propaganda.

This is not the first time Iran has been accused like this—each time our Foreign Ministry strongly condemns such a thing. There are a few points that should be noted with regard to all this:

—Accusing Iran of terrorism is one of the West's pressure levers against Iran. It is not without cause that whenever any assassination, explosion, or unrest takes place anywhere the Westerners do their best to try to find the Islamic Republic's fingerprint—be it the explosion at the Jewish Center in Buenos Aires; a plane crash in Lockerbie, Scotland; or the assassination of Kurdish leaders in Berlin!

But the interesting point is that in all these incidents and accusations, none of them documented by proof, the officials voicing the accusations usually review their position. In some cases they have even apologized to Iran.

—It would be better for France's superdemocratic! [preceding word in English] publications to review their archives and see the outcome of all the unjust accusations in the case of [former Prime Minister] Shapur Bakhtiar against Iran, to see how the Paris supreme court ruled on the case, and to study why the French mass media suddenly became tongue-tied and did not confess that their mistakes were intentional.

—Iran is being accused of terrorism at a time when all France is being used by terrorists who have been committing assassinations, terrifying, killing, and perpetrating crimes against Iranian citizens for years and who have now found refuge in European countries, where they are enjoying extensive support by the West's political and espionage circles. Have these publications asked the French Government what these criminals are doing on French territory and why they are not being expelled?

—The so-called Iranian opposition elements abroad are now facing a crisis among themselves. Basically speaking, Iran considers them to be dead elements; no one kills a dead person (!) But it is odd how the spiteful reports by these dead elements are reflected as documents in the French press and how, with the support of the West's intelligence and espionage circles, the comments by these elements are widely reflected in the French press.

—In view of Zionism's indubitable infiltration into Europe's mass media, especially in Germany, France, and Britain, as well as the Zionists' radical opposition to Iran, you can see where the accusations and negative propaganda originate.

—In foreign policy, Iran should act more powerfully and carefully and examine the possibility of the French foreign policy machinery trying to play a political game and to gain points through such means.

Iran: MKO TV Program Alleges 'Terrorist Plots'

NC2706192096 Baghdad Iraq Television Service in Persian 0930 GMT 26 May 96

[Address by unidentified female member of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO, on 24 May at the National Liberation Army (NLA) Base in Iraq; from the "Vision of Resistance" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, and the people of Iran. Blessings on the lofty souls of the martyred founders of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization.

Compatriots, martyr-nurturing people of Iran, the Mojahedin-e Khalq of Iran: We are commemorating the anniversary of the martyrdom of the great founder of the Mojahedin-e, Khalq Mohammad Hanif-Nezhad, and his associate mojahed founders Ta'id-e Mohsen, 'Ali Asghar (Ra'd) and two members of the Central Committee of the organization, the martyred mojahed Rasul Meshkinfam and Mahmud (Niazzadeh). [passage omitted]

The gains of the Iranian Resistance Movement in liberating women especially the brilliant role of the chosen president of the resistance in the attainment of this progress, is not only a guarantee of the perpetuation of the existence but also of the dynamism of the resistance's growth and exaltation, as compared to the anti-Iranian and misanthropic Khomeyni regime.

In addition, as the center of attraction for most of the freedom- seekers and combatants campaigning for the liberation of women from various countries of the world, including Europe and America, the resistance movement has greatly attracted them and has motivated

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

them to support it. This is especially true since they see the daily victories of the mojahedin and the Iranian resistance in practice and that they have been tested and evolved in the crucible of the most crucial and serious revolutionary struggle.

There is valuable and worldwide solidarity with the Iranian resistance, especially with its lionhearted women in all spheres of leadership and in the command cadres, against the clerical regime, which is the center of exporting reaction and religious fundamentalism in its (?most reprehensible form).

It is not surprising therefore that the regime has embarked on various plots against the resistance and is paying a price for its paranoid inhuman malice daily, the dimensions and intensity of which are astonishing and unimaginable to all observers. Suffice it to mention the two terroristic plots that the regime hatched in the past few weeks to target the chosen president of the resistance in Paris and the commander in chief of the NLA in the border areas. [passage omitted]

The regime's terroristic plots against the resistance's leadership, especially its propagandist and diplomatic plots, have assumed massive dimensions. The criminal clerics who are seeking to extricate themselves from international condemnation and isolation and from accusations of violating human rights, have begun extensive plans and conspiracies, including: Pressuring the supporters of the resistance, such as cultural figures, so they will take stances against the resistance; inviting the UN rapporteur to Iran and sending the agents and the lackeys of the Information Ministry in the guise of opposition members to meet him in order to make charges against the Mojahedin. They have paid stupendous sums for this. They wish to attain their antiresistance objectives, especially on the international level. However, all the regime's plots backfired when the facts were revealed by their enemies.

Despite all the clerical regime's efforts, plots, and machinations and those of its supporters in order to escape condemnation, a resolution which was even more sharply-worded than before was approved. [passage omitted]

Inside the country as well, the fury and indignation of the masses against the regime—which we witnessed by the expression of popular will even during the clerical elections—is becoming more and more explosive by the day. Conversely, the public's eagerness for the democratic alternative [preceding two words in English]—that is, the National Democratic Council [of the MKO] and its chosen president—is proliferating daily.

These propitious developments, which will hasten the overthrow of the misanthropic clerical regime by the NLA, will expedite the brilliant future that awaits the Iranian people. This is the fruit of the struggles and sacrifices of the people and the most exalted scions of the MKO and its combatants, who have sacrificed their all in the darkest and most adverse conditions, for the sake of peace. [passage omitted].

Iran: Paper Comments on Jordan-Israel Ties

LD0307113296 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 24 Jun 96 p 14

[Article by Marzieh Movahhed: "Jordan in the Service of the Zionists"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Zionist regime's Prime Minister Netanyahu telephoned King Husayn of Jordan a few days after his election as prime minister of the Zionist regime and stressed that Israel will consolidate the peace accords it has signed with the two neighboring countries of Jordan and Egypt. In view of the anxiety felt by Arab governments regarding the coming to power of the Likud Party in Israel (because of Netanyahu's statements about the peace process), these remarks can be seen as a message of friendship for Jordan. This is why the Jordanian Government, which enjoys the greatest amount of kindness! from the Zionist regime, tries to convey its gratitude to the Israeli Government by any means, even through making unfounded allegations against some countries. Since Iran is the most important country opposed to the illegitimate Zionist regime, Jordan attacks Iran more than any other country to please and gain the approval of the Zionists even more.

To this end, the prime minister of this country has, along with the United States and some of the reactionary regimes of the region, raised such issues as expressing support for the United Arab Emirates regarding the three Iranian islands and expressing support for Bahrain in its struggle against opponents that are, according to Bahrain, led by Iran.

Jordan is one of the Middle East region's poor countries, the economy of which requires help from other countries, and Jordan always bears this point in mind when choosing its stances. When Iraq invaded Kuwait, Jordan declared its support for Saddam's regime. However, because, as a result of the attacks by the allies, Iraq became unable to help any other country, Jordan rapidly changed its stance toward Saddam's opponents and, at the moment, it condemns Iraq more than any other country, to such a point that it has agreed to allow American fighter planes to be based in Jordan to protect it against Iraqi attacks and against any possible revenge attacks.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The stance adopted by Jordan during the Persian Gulf war caused anger among the Arab countries on the Persian Gulf and led to a halt in financial assistance to that country.

In recent years, Jordan has tried to make up for its past by adopting different stances in a bid to improve its relations with these countries and to benefit from their assistance.

Iran: OIC To Hold Post, Communications Conference in Tehran 8 Jul

LD0307121796 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The third conference of post and communications ministers from the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] member countries, to be attended by 52 countries, will be held in Tehran over four days, starting on 18 Tir [8 July].

Announcing this information at a gathering of reporters this morning, the minister of post, telegraph, and telephone said: Since the establishment of the OIC — in order to expand the vital and infrastructural sphere of communications, and in view of the importance of the subject — two conferences have been held so far, at ministerial level, in Turkey and Indonesia, and it was decided that the third conference would be held in Tehran in view of the Islamic Republic of Iran's political and communications strengths and capabilities in the world and in the region. He added: The most valuable result of this conference will be to increase the capacity to fight the West's cultural onslaught in Islamic countries by expanding postal and communications networks, which will place member countries along the path of economic, social, cultural, and political development at the same time.

Iran: Gen. Reza'i Addresses IRGC in Khorasan

LD2806173196 Tehran IRNA in English 1533 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chenaran, June 28, IRNA — The commander of Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), Major General Mohsen Reza'i, addressing the gathering of the combatants of Khorasan Province said "your powerful presence in the scenes of the revolution has stripped the enemy of its potency in the region."

The major general corps told the 50,000-strong participants at the "covenant with velayat" combat operation camping ground added that "your presence in the scenes of the revolution causes the enemy to retreat." Reza'i stressed that "your power and resolution adds to the dignity and grandeur of Islam and the Islamic revolution."

He added that the 'covenant with velayat' operations displays the organization, fast deployment of forces, and strengthening of cultural and ideological dimensions and physical preparedness of the combatants of Islam.

Major General Mohsen Reza'i finally stated that highly efficient combatants will be selected from among the participants in these camps for the grand Tariq al-Quds maneuver.

Iran: Rafsanjani Addresses Intelligence Officers

LD2906202696 Tehran IRIB Television Third Program Network in Persian 1815 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stresses that security and peace are the main resources needed for society to advance and prosper.

The president was addressing a large group of information ministry personnel following a tour of a fair displaying the ministry's latest technical and technological achievements.

Emphasising that the ministry's activities should be based on a popular foundation, Mr. Rafsanjani said such an organization, which is favorable to the people, can turn into a very important factor for the success of the information-gathering operations.

Mr. Rafsanjani underlined that gaining people's satisfaction does not only mean preventing the wicked from disrupting the society's tranquillity, it rather means that security and enforcement forces should always deal seriously with those attempting to disrupt social order. [as heard]

Iran: President—'Sound' Youth Culture Key to Political Success

LD3006185096 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 30, IRNA — President Hashemi-Rafsanjani here today received participants in a national youth studies convention.

In his meeting with them he said:

"Our present society, relying on its sacred and ideological goals must, more than any other society, carry out wise and knowledge-based projects based on the psychology of young adults and youth.

"There are basic differences in the education of young adults and youth in religion-based societies and in lay societies. In the latter societies, which have materialistic goals, the principal concern is how to entertain people

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and how to offer them a variety of pleasures. As the youth in those societies become less and less interested in the political and social issues the more it will be to the benefit of the political situation in those societies. But in the revolutionary and faith-oriented society of Iran the goal is to build humans within the framework of divine values, and all investments and efforts are channelled to that same goal.

"The youthful society in Iran has certain particulars. One segment of your youth think better than what is standard for the youth in other socieites. This is because that segment of our youth have benefitted from the cultural environment of the post-revolution era. Educationally, politically, and socially they stand at a good level.

"The duty of present-day planners in that area is very heavy. The road that has been taken for the wellbeing of the youth must be marched on the end. We hope our future generations will have been nurtured in a manner so as to prove even better citizens. We must appreciate the feelings of the youth and correct their outlooks and lead them on the right path and by strengthening their mental foundations help them opt for correct choices in their life.

"To dictate judgments on the youth, to inspire fear of family and of the society in the minds of the youth, and to rely on compulsive devices for the youth is not a good choice for the education of the young adults. Unwarranted toughness will fail rather than bring results.

"Safeguards and controls, however, are necessary. Violent encounters against illogically rebellious temperance with our youth will be useful, but educationally, they cannot be an ideal lever.

"To the extent we carry out an unadultered and unfettered Islam we will have corrected the society. Every leaning towards extremism in that area will entail adverse results.

"Once and if we have prevented our Muslim youths sympathetic turn to the corrupt Western culture and prevented their adoption of corrupt behavior we shall have strengthend the character of our youth, and will thereby have performed the best service to the humanity.

"Attention should also be drawn to the problems of the females and especially of the girls... By sound reasoning and logical arguments we must pave the way for a fuller presence in our society of women which will be to the best interest of the political system, and in the interest of Islam and the revolution."

Iran: 'Saboteurs' Arrested in Mazandaran Province

LD0107202396 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 29 Jun 96 p 14

[Unattributed report "Director General of Information of Mazandaran Province Revealed: External Elements Intending To Assassinate the Country's Dignitaries Arrested in Mazandaran"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Babol, HAMSHAHRI's correspondent: The director general of information of Mazandaran Province has reported that a number of saboteurs who had entered Mazandaran Province and intended to assassinate senior political religious personalities were identified and arrested.

Niaz, director general of information of Mazandaran, who was addressing the joint seminar of the headquarters for Friday prayers of Mazandaran Province, held in Babol's prayer center, added: With people's vigilance and special observations by the unknown soldiers of the Lord of the Ages, may God hasten his lofty advent [the hidden Imam], antirevolution elements who intended to assassinate government officials and religious personalities of Mazandaran Province were identified in time and the possibility of any kind of sabotage activities by them was eliminated and that their internal collaborators were also detained.

Niaz said: A number of big embezzlement gangs and individuals who were creating dissatisfaction among the people in the government offices have also been arrested in Mazandaran Province. These individuals were mainly employed in state administrative offices and a number of senior officials from the province's offices are seen among them.

Iran: Fa'ezeh Hashemi on Islamic Values, Role of Women in Majles

LD0207091196 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 27 Jun 96 pp 3, 13

[Report by S. Babran: "Development and Islamic Values Are Inseparable"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A female Majles deputy emphasized the importance of economic development along with the preservation of Islamic values, saying that "they are inseparable and should go side by side". Ms Fa'ezeh Hashemi stated that "those who want to draw a line between these two prerequisites are negligent". She is a deputy from the Tehran constituency, and recently addressed a press conference, news of which partly appeared in yesterday's IRAN NEWS.

She threw light on various other national aspects including the rights of women. Emphasizing the importance

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

of a healthy combination of national development with the preservation of Islamic values, she said that "even our religion asks us to pursue both religious and worldly objectives". "To provide for the welfare of the people is in fact a revival of the Islamic values", Fa'ezeh maintained. She is the daughter of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and is married with a son and a daughter.

"In his message to the Majles on its inauguration, the leader of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, underlined various issues, including development and reconstruction", she recalled.

Fa'ezeh, who is also the head of the Islamic Countries' Women Sports Solidarity Council, said that "if we go through the First and Second Development plans, it becomes quite clear that we made the right headway towards our goals."

Turning to the new Majles composition, she said that female lawmakers did not field their names for the post of the Majles Presiding Board because women "make up of just five percent of the total members of the legislative body".

"The Majles and society is [as published] not ready to accept a woman as head (Speaker) of the legislative body," she said.

Elaborating on the issues of women in Iran she said that they "have certain problems related to the civil courts, where sections dealing in family affairs were abolished".

"Now, family members refer their grievance to the same courts where cases for criminals are heard, and it causes problems for them," she said.

The laws for the civil courts in Iran were framed before the victory of the Islamic revolution, she said, adding that many changes have been made to these laws but they are not enough and require more adjustment based on present needs.

"I have certain plans which I will present to the Majles for the necessary action," Fa'ezeh said.

"I don't see any need to form a women's Majles commission and I don't think it is a positive step," she said and pointed out the women's affairs may be solved through other commissions, such as legal issues through the Justice Commission, and so on.

The male domination in the Majles can be neutralized through positive action by female lawmakers, Fa'ezeh said.

Iran: Leading Female Activist Addresses Critics

LD0207172696 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 26 Jun 96 p 1, 13

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran — A leading female activist and lawmaker yesterday ruled out any possibility for the formation of a political party and said "working independently is preferable."

Addressing a press conference yesterday, Tehran's deputy Ms. Feazeh Hashemi said, "I can't say anything on behalf of the Servants of Construction (G-6) [Group of Six, Servants of Construction, reference to reformist faction of Iranian officials around President Rafsanjani], but as far as I personally am concerned, I prefer to work independently."

She said, "I fought and won the elections with the backing of the Servants of Construction and I believe that their political goals and objectives are positive."

The Servants of Construction fielded candidates for the Fifth Term of the Majles for which elections were held in March and April.

"The G-6 has specific objectives which it followed for the last elections, from the very beginning we decided not to ally ourselves with this or that group and act independently," Faezeh, who received the second highest number of votes from the Tehran Constituency, said.

Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri snatched the highest number of votes.

She said that Jameh-ye Rowhaniyat-e Mobarez (JRM) [Militant Clergy Association] was the only faction which formally introduced its candidates for the Majles elections.

"The advent of G-6 encouraged several other factions to appear on the political scene which helped create a healthy rivalry and also attracted the attention of the voters," she said.

"You saw that comparatively greater number of voters went to the polling booths, which was a great blow to the enemy who claimed through false propaganda that the people were no longer interested in the government," Feazeh said.

"Another equally important election objective of the G-6 was to have a Majles containing a variety of thoughts so that the legislative body could not be dominated by any particular faction," she said, adding, "We achieved all our objective."

She paid tribute to Ansar-e Hezbollah and said they are hard working people and have made a lot of sacrifices,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

"They enjoy special status because of the sacrifices they made for the sake of our society."

"But," she said, "like other factions, the Ansar-e Hezbollah should work within the framework of the country's existing laws... [newspaper's ellipses] most important is to follow the Vali-e Faqih," she said.

"No one is allowed to act against Islamic laws on the pretext of preserving Islamic values and divine words," she stated.

We should remember that domestic and foreign enemies pursue two objectives: To make people lose hope for the country's future, and to make them lose faith in the government, she said adding that we should not let the enemies succeed in their vicious mission.

Hashemi said women's sports affairs are being conducted within the framework of the system. "The media, prior to the elections, generally showed a positive attitude towards women's sports, but suddenly things changed during the election campaigns which is surprising and has no justification," she said.

"Some claim that women's sports had strayed from Islamic values," she said, and added, "If it was so, then why did those people keep silent for the last several years and brought up the issue only during the elections despite the fact that no new measures were taken by us at the time"

"Our country has laws, a leader, a National Security Council, an Expediency Council, a Majles and Judiciary," she said, and pointed out that if something was wrong, these sources would have sent appropriate warnings to me or the head of the Sports Organization Hashemi Taba.

"It looks like the hue and cry made by certain people against women's sports was nothing but an election propaganda ploy," she said.

Faezeh appealed to the media to stay faithful to journalistic principles and refrain from unwarranted attacks on individuals and avoid publication of rumours based on unhealthy political objectives.

She said President Hashemi-Rafsanjani is a strong supporter of women's sports, and added that the present trend in this field will not be adversely affected with the change of the head of the executive branch of the government.

"Neither Islam nor the existing social norms are opposed to women cycling... this is what I said earlier... and the same I still believe," Faezeh said.

Asked why she remained silent when she was made a target of criticism during the election campaign, she responded: "I was not silent... they distorted my points of view and the criticism against me was not reasonable and logical,".

"And above all," she said, "the critics were pursuing their own political motives."

"There was a religious decree issued by the leader of the Islamic Iran, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, which clearly said that women's sports based on Islamic values are allowed," she said.

Iran: Majles Budget, Internal Affairs Committee Officials Elected

LD0207164196 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 26 Jun 96 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Presiding Board of Majles Plan and Budget, Councils and Internal Affairs Committees Chosen"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Members of the presiding board of the Majles committees, including the Plan and Budget and Councils and Internal Affairs Committees, were elected on 25 June.

According to a report by the Islamic Majles public relations office, in accordance with article 38 of the Majles internal regulations, Qorban 'Ali Dorri-Najafabadi, Mohammad Mehdi Rahbari-Amlashi, and Majid Ansari were elected chairman, first deputy chairman, and second deputy chairman respectively of the Plan and Budget Committee.

Mohammad Baqer Nowbakht, Reza 'Abdollahi, and Mohammad Mehdi Mofatteh were elected first and second secretaries respectively.

On the basis of the same report, Qorban 'Ali Qandahari, Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Abutorabi, and Morteza Fazl'ali were elected chairman, first deputy chairman, and second deputy chairman respectively of the Councils and Internal Affairs Committee of the Majles.

Iran: Khamene'i Representative Criticizes Fuel Shortage in Sistan

LD0207174496 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 26 Jun 96 p 13

[FBIS Translated Text] Zahedan, RESALAT's correspondent: Problems concerning the distribution of fuel, especially liquid gas in Sistan-va-Baluchestan have forced people to turn to the open market to purchase liquid gas and wait several days to receive a gas cylinder weighing 11 kg.

In his Friday sermons, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohammadian, the representative of the Vali-e Faqih

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Khamene'i] in the province and Zahedan's Friday prayers Imam, complained about those ministers who do not pay serious attention when appointing officials to the province. He added: People of the province become ill in winter because of the cold weather. They are also deprived of fuel, especially liquid gas, during the summer season.

He added: Now that it is summer and the consumption of gas and fuel is very low, we are facing these problems. When winter comes and fuel consumption is high throughout the country, Sistan-va-Baluchestan Province will be totally forgotten.

The representative of the Vali-e Faqih referred to resolving the problem of shortages of water in Zahedan. He said that despite the fact that some districts were customers to the water and sewage company, people did not have a drop of water for washing in some districts during summer. He added: The officials of the water and sewage company must plan the distribution of the few drops of water that exist in the pipes so that every one can receive a certain share.

He said that the water and sewage engineering company must organize the distribution of drinking water in such a way that it should not only reach areas within a few kilometers but it should also reach the remote and deprived areas of the city because not everyone is able to pay a high price for their required daily drinking water.

Zahedan's Friday Imam proposed that the water and sewage company deliver water to the deprived areas by using drinking water tankers and put it at people's disposal at a very low price.

Iran: IRAN NEWS—No Election in Esfahan Unless Governor Dismissed

LD0207205996 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 26 Jun 96 p 1, 13

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran — A prominent parliamentarian yesterday said the Guardian Council insists on the dismissal of the Esfahan governor general, Eshaq Jahangiri, for interference in the election process.

Tehran's representative at the Majles (Parliament), 'Ali Movahhed Savoji quoted the Election Law as stipulating the dismissal of executive officials who fail to be impartial during elections at the constituencies.

The Guardian Council has cancelled Esfahan's election results due to Jahangiri's direct or indirect interference in the process, he told 'IRAN NEWS'.

The Guardian Council has called for the dismissal of Esfahan's governor-general in accordance with the law, he stressed, adding, "So long as he remains in office, the Council will not allow elections there." The first round of elections for the fifth Majles was held 8th March 1996. The interim elections, which are held five months after the run-off, will take place in mid-September.

Savoji remarked, "Dismissal of governors-general is not contrary to the law; the task is vested with the minister of interior."

"The Council of Ministers does not opt for postponement of elections in Esfahan. Nonetheless, either the Guardian Council and Interior Ministry should reach an agreement on this issue, or the Council of Ministers should provide convincing reasons to the people on why the elections have been postponed," he emphasized.

The interior minister nominates the governors-general who should gain votes of confidence from the Council of Ministers. Any dismissal should come after another person is nominated and receives a vote of confidence from cabinet members.

Fourth term Majles representative from Esfahan, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Ezhe'i also told 'IRAN NEWS': "Based on the Election Law, the Interior Ministry proposes holding elections. Acceptance or rejection of this proposal is vested with the Guardian Council, since the ministry is only in charge of running the elections."

Only the Interior Ministry would be blameworthy for postponement of the elections, he said adding: "The law does not specify any measures in case the interior minister fails to win the agreement of the Guardian Council."

The Election Law does not clarify who is answerable if the two sides fail to reach an agreement," he concluded.

Iran: MP's Question Minister's Right To Sack Khorasan Governor

LD0207193996 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 26 Jun 96 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] It is not illegal for the interior minister to replace the governor general of Khorasan Province.

A deputy from Tehran, Hojjat ol-Eslam Movahhedi Savoji-Kermani, who is also a member of the Islamic Majles' presidium, by announcing the above, told an ABRAR correspondent that it is not illegal for the interior minister to sack a governor general, and the Majles should not question such a move either.

He added: After the dismissal of Khorasan Province's governor general, several deputies of the province submitted a petition to the Majles presidium to protest against his dismissal. It has been agreed that the councils

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and internal affairs committee of the Majles should hold a meeting with the signatories of the petition in two weeks time in order to discuss the issue.

He concluded his remarks by saying: The gentlemen who have protested may be convinced by the interior minister at the coming meeting to withdraw their petition, otherwise we would also side with the protesting gentlemen to proceed further in accordance with the law.

Iran: Article Views Friday Prayers Problems

LD0207205396 Tehran ASR-E MA in Persian 26 Jun 96 pp 4-5

[Unattributed article: "Friday Prayers: Symbol of Unity"]

[FBIS Translated Text] All Muslim forces agree that the Friday prayers should be a symbol of unity for the Islamic community. There is also consensus that the Friday prayer imam should admonish his audience to piety and warn them against carnal desires. Moreover, it is crystal clear that the imam himself should adhere to these principles more than anyone else, so that his words of advice may have the greatest possible effect on his audience.

Therefore, the whole set of conditions and factors involved in the staging of Friday prayers should be organized and implemented in a way that can effectively attract the majority of the Islamic community members to the "enemy-crushing" Friday prayers rites. It was for this reason and in the pursuit of this aim that his eminence the Imam [Khomeyni], may his soul rest in peace, appointed the late Ayatollah Taleqani to lead the first Friday prayers after the victory of the Islamic revolution, and even after the demise of Ayatollah Taleqani, continued to invite the most worthy personalities of the time to lead the prayers, in particular in Tehran and Qom.

The highly important "unity-inspiring" role of Friday prayers dictates that the Friday imam's tribune should stand well above factional issues. In other words, the Friday imam should speak to his Muslim audience only about piety, justice, fairness, the importance of unity, and finally the most important issues facing the Muslim community.

In this article, we do not intend to evaluate the performance of the Friday prayer headquarters. However, we do intend to pay special attention to the Friday prayers rites of Tehran and Qom. This is because these two occasions enjoy special significance due to the status of these two cities. Moreover, the Friday sermons delivered in these two venues are always broadcast on the national radio and television networks and receive subsequent coverage by both the domestic and foreign media. We, therefore, would like to stress that the tribunes of these two Friday prayers ought to be completely aloof from factional issues so that they can be considered as as clear symbols for Muslim unity.

Unfortunately, however, for some time now, the majority of the presermon speakers in these two cities have been representing a particular faction. Furthermore, there have been times when the esteemed Friday imams themselves have not paid the necessary respect to the special status of the Friday prayer tribune.

Remarks by the acting Friday prayer imam of Tehran on 25 Khordad 1375 [14 June 1996, when the sermons were preached by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati] can be seen as a clear example of not using the Friday prayer tribune in a fair and impartial manner. The esteemed Friday imam himself should be a symbol of justice and fairness and his attitude toward all state institutions as well as all Muslim forces who are committed to the Islamic revolution and velayat-e faqih [Guardianship of the Jurisconsult] should be impartial and based on religious and moral principles.

However, we saw that in the said Friday prayers, the esteemed imam only singled out one institution — that is the Tehran Municipality — when he was urging the judiciary to deal with a report by the Majles research and investigation committees about possible offenses by a number of organizations. This was despite the fact that in recent months, six reports by the said committees concerning offenses by various organizations, including the Tehran Municipality, have been read out in the Majles. The case of the Tehran Municipality was neither the first of these case, nor the biggest, in terms of the extent and gravity of the offenses. Moreover, the area of the municipality's offenses was merely confined to Tehran and not the country as a whole.

We believe that using the Friday prayers tribune in this fashion will only serve to undermine the status of these rites and will increasingly erode their attraction for our people. Fortunately, the esteemed Friday imams of Tehran have a number of other tribunes at their disposal which they can easily employ to further "factional objectives." In other words, one should use the Friday prayer tribune to urge the judiciary to deal with all possible offenss. This is because offenss are bad and deplorable, no matter which institution happens to commit them. In this respect, there can be no difference whatsoever between the Foundation for the Oppressed, the Tehran Municipality, etc.

We do not know if the organizers of Friday prayers carry out any research into people's presence or nonpresence in the rites. Have they ever asked themselves

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

why, despite the population growth, the number of participants in these events has declined compared with the past, particularly the early years of the revolution? Furthermore, how is it that when the eminent leader [Khamene'i] or the esteemed president lead the prayers, the huge mass of audience present revives the old memories of the early days of the revolution?

It seems that part of the answer for the low turnout in the Friday prayers lies in the fact that these rites have been influenced by "factionalism" in recent years.

We hope that in future we will not witness the expression of such biased stances in Friday prayer sermons, so that these sacred rites can once again act as a symbol of Muslim unity and a manifestation of the might of the Islamic community.

Iran: NIOC Director Outlines Plans To Increase Production

LD0207205496 Tehran IRNA in English 2039 GMT 2 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, July 2, IRNA — Given Iran's role in the world energy market, there is no other choice than to increase its oil and gas production, says Director of Exploration for the National Iranian Oil Company, [NIOC] Seyyed Mehdi Hoseyni.

Iranian supply, he said, was a crucial factor in meeting world oil demand and ensuring market stability. As a consequence, it meant Iran would have to double its current production capacity of 4.2 million barrels per day by 2010. His figures are based upon Iran only maintaining 14 per cent of OPEC's total output assuming demand for its supplies rise to 60 m bpd [million barrels per day] as widely forecast. But given the massive investment needed, Hoseyni believed world demand in the next 15 years cannot be met.

In the case of Iran, he thought that rises in production capacity to around 5.5 m bpd in 2005 and 6 m bpd in 2010 were more realistic owing to the very large capital investments that would be needed for 8.4 m bpd.

Speaking at the third millennium petroleum conference in London last week, the NIOC director set out some of Iran's plans to boost oil development, including both upstream and downstream schemes being offered for foreign investment. Apart from 11 buyback projects launched last November, he said priority was also being given to other previously discovered offshore oil and gas fields such as the Strait of Hormuz, the gas field with 20 trillion cubic feet of gas, liquefied natural gas projects and pipelines.

With regard to Iran's 15 per cent share of the world's proven natural gas reserves, Hosyni said that the best markets in the region were Pakistan, that has a large distribution network, and India, with a population of over 1 billion.

On the feasibility of supplying gas to Europe via pipelines or on lng vessels or using a combination of both, he said that joint studies were being undertaken with such European companies as Gaz de France, Ruhrgas and Snamprogetti.

As a main gateway, Iran was also working with the newly independent republics of Central Asia, where the recent signing of the Shakh Deniz contract in Azerbaijan was seen as a turning point for Iranian cooperation in the region.

The consortium of seven European and Asian companies including a private Iranian firm, the NIOC director said, proved once again U.S. policy of isolating Iran by exerting economic and political pressure was "short-sighted and doomed to be futile."

Iran: President Determined To Accelerate Pace of Development

LD0307085096 Tehran IRNA in English 0832 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bojnourd, Khorasan Prov., July 3, IRNA — President Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Wednesday [3 July] said that his administration is determined to speed up the pace of development and construction projects in this northeastern province.

The president, who arrived here this morning to inaugurate a number of development projects, further told reporters at Bojnourd airport that Khorasan Province will be turned into a major axis and crossroads in the region.

While in the province the president is scheduled to tour provincial cities and inaugurate several major projects including the Khorasan petrochemical complex, Bojnourd's airport, a 96-bed hospital, a 400-kw power plant in Esfarayen and a 400-kilovolt electricity transmission station in Neishabour.

Iran: Khorasan Petrochemical Complex Commissioned

LD0307104696 Tehran IRNA in English 1029 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bojnourd, Khorasan Prov., July 3, IRNA — The giant petrochemical complex of Khorasan, 17 km from here, went on stream [on line] at presence of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Wednesday [3 July].

The complex has the capacity of producing 330,000 tons of ammonia and 500,000 tons of urea fertilizer. The

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

complex, completed at a cost of rls. [rials] 1,000 billion, makes Iran self-sufficient in urea chemical fertilizers and saves iran Some dlrs. [dollars] 120 million annually.

The project will also create jobs, provide technical training opportunities and transfer of technology and render assistance to other industries.

Meanwhile, simultaneous with the arrival in Bojnourd of President Rafsanjani, the city's airport was officially inaugurated.

The airport's 60-meter wide runway is 3,360 meters long, 2,700 meters of which have been completed. The project, undertaken in 1994, is predicted to cost rls. 28,000 million.

The airport will accommodate two weekly flights to Tehran and the provincial capital of Mashhad.

Iran: Majles Deputies Urged To Forget 'Bickering' During Campaign

NC0307120296 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 19 Jun 96 p 2

[Commentary by Hoseyn Shari'atmadari: "The People's Right"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the fifth Majles elections, which enjoyed unprecedented popular participation and laudable fervor and enthusiasm, some political trends with different views entered the arena and competed with one another countrywide. The people elected the individuals they considered to be qualified to enter the Majles as their representatives, according to their own perceptions and taste.

The rivalry among factions and political groups in the elections—as is the nature of such rivalry—was not without personal displeasure, one against the another. Now that the Islamic Majles has begun its deliberations for the fifth term, the esteemed Majles deputies should note that in the transition from election period to Majles sessions only individual views enter the Majles along with the Majles deputies.

Any residual differences in the election period and any concomitant unpleasantness should not be permitted to enter the Majles. This is because the fruitful outcome of an exchange of ideas to unravel knots is the exaltation of ideas and the righting of opinions, which can only be attained through a clash of views stemming from contrasting ideas.

A conflict of opinions and the resulting unpleasantness lingering on from the election campaign are not considered an exchange of ideas, but waste time and bog down the people's affairs. Despite their differing views and perspectives, the Majles deputies have been elected by the people and, while their political, economic, and cultural perspectives may be different, they enjoy the support of the people.

Our nation has elected its candidates with awareness and understanding of these diverse preferences and visions, which have been inducted into the Islamic Majles as representative of the people's will. It is the inalienable right of the people that these views and perspectives should influence the decisionmaking and legislative process of the Majles through healthy exchanges of views and a clash of opinions and tastes.

But differences stemming from personal competitiveness or bickering among candidates and factions that surfaced during canvassing do not concern the people. This kind of unpleasantness among candidates—rightly or wrongly—has its roots in their interaction with one another, especially during electioneering. It is obvious that it cannot, and should not, influence the Islamic Majles' decisionmaking and if, God forbid, it does, then it means the people's rights have been ignored.

Yesterday the great leader of the revolution met the Islamic Majles deputies and, while expressing his satisfaction at the composition of the fifth Majles, stressed the eligibility and integrity of the deputies. Stressing that "the progress and welfare of the country is linked with the participation of various groups and processes in the elections," he stated: "After all, every group has a slogan and something to say. But if we were to see the innate reality behind that, we would observe that all are the same and have the same demands and thoughts."

He added: If at the end of this term the factions that believe they have differences now reach the conclusion that ultimately they do not have differences, that they are also friends and allies, then they and the country will have achieved a major victory."

Pakistan

Pakistan: Bhutto Offers Support for Afghan Peace Efforts

BK0307043296 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 3 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said Pakistan, while maintaining strict neutrality, is willing to play any role for peace and stability in Afghanistan. She was talking to Mr. (Ghayrat Bahir), the political representative and special envoy of the Afghanistan prime minister, Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar, who called on her in Islamabad yesterday. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto hoped that recent developments in Afghanistan will support the peace efforts. She welcomed the feelings of Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar to promote friendly relations with Pakistan. In

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

this connection, she recalled sacrifices made by Pakistan during the Afghan jehad [holy war] for the restoration of the country's sovereignty.

The envoy handed over a message from the Afghan prime minister to Mrs. Benazir Bhutto. He thanked her for sending a delegation to Kabul to attend the oath-taking ceremony of Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar. Mr. (Ghayrat Bahir) said promotion of brotherly relations between the two countries would be the main priority of his government's foreign policy.

Pakistan: President Says Government 'Working' Within Constitution

BK0107114296 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said our institutions are working in the ambit of the Constitution and there is no need to be worried. In a brief chat with newsmen in Bhit Shah today, he said the government is also functioning in accordance with the Constitution. When his attention was drawn to the [opposition's] demands about his constitutional role, the president said he did not see any contradiction in the working of the government under framework of the Constitution. As such, he had no cause to worry.

Pakistan: Leghari, German Delegation Discuss Kashmir Hostages

BK0207141196 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 2 JUl 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said Kashmir is an unfinished item on the partition agenda of the subcontinent and Pakistan wants a peaceful solution of the Kashmir problem in accordance with the United Nations resolutions. He was talking to a four-member German parliamentary delegation at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [president's house] today. The president pointed out that India is brutalizing the entire population of Kashmir and committing gross violations of human rights. He said now an insurgency is being sponsored in the Indian-held Kashmir under the full protection and patronage of Indian troops in order to counter and eliminate the Kashmiris who are fighting for their right of self-determination.

Referring to the four Western nationals who were kidnapped from Indian-held Kashmir, the president expressed extreme concern and sympathy for them and their families. He said the hostages belong to Western countries with which Pakistan enjoys cordial and close relations and which were in the forefront of the fight against human rights violations. He informed the delegation that Pakistan had already made appeals at the highest levels and all out efforts were made to resolve this problem.

The German parliamentary delegation appreciated the efforts of the Government of Pakistan for the early release of the hostages and expressed the hope that they would continue to do their best to resolve the hostage issue as soon as possible.

Pakistan: Babar Seeking To Disqualify Nawaz Sharif From Parliament

BK3006164496 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 30 Jun 96 pp 1,10

[Report by Tariq Butt]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Nasirullah Babar Saturday [29 Jun] filed a reference with Speaker of the National Assembly Yousaf Raza Gilani, seeking disqualification of leader of the Opposition Nawaz Sharif, from the lower house of the parliament.

The reference relates to an alleged payment of Rs. [rupees] 100 million to Jammat-i-Islami (JI) Amir Qazi Hussian Ahmed by Nawaz Sharif when he was the prime minister.

The interior minister urged the Speaker to submit the reference to the Chief Election Commissioner for adjudication of the question raised in it.

The matter is subjudice for the past some time as the Jamaat chief has filed a suit against the opposition leader, claiming one billion rupees as damages for making this allegation against him.

Apparently, the government has submitted the reference in response to the filing of a reference by the opposition a few days ago against the prime minister and her spouse, Asif Ali Zardari, for allegedly purchasing a 355-acre mansion in Surrey.

Being a public representative, Nawaz Sharif has violated section 16 of the Public Representative Ordinance 1977, which attracts reference against him for having paid such a big amount to help his fellow politicians for political motives," Babar said.

The interior minister attached newspapers clippings and copy of the civil suit filed by the Jammat chief with the reference. He said Nawaz Sharif publicly confessed in October 1993 that he had paid Rs. 100 million to Qazi Hussian Ahmed.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Baber said the Jamaat chief, in a affidavit filed in the court, has accused the opposition leader of deviating from the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] manifesto and holding him responsible for the political crisis in the country which led to the dissolution of assemblies in 1993.

Qazi Hussain Ahmed had also accused the opposition leader and his party of having started negative, nefarious and false propaganda against him. He said Nawaz Sharif in connivance with his party colleagues got published false, defamatory and malicious advertisements in newspapers and defamatory allegations of having paid Rs.100 million to him, Baber said.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.